

A LINCOLN BOOK  
A Soldier's Tribute to His Chief  
BY  
JOSIAH GROUT





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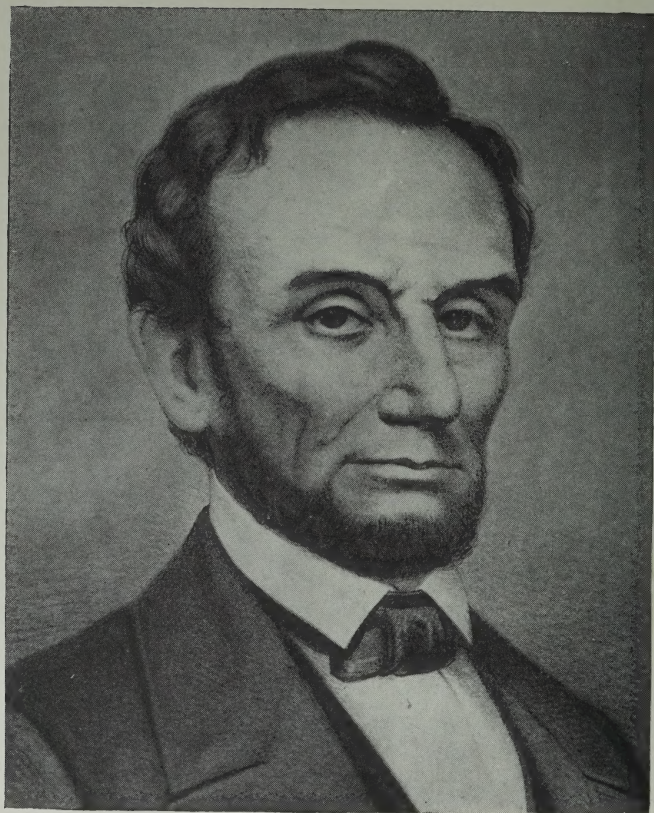


A Book Inculcating  
American Patriotism









ABRAHAM LINCOLN



# A LINCOLN BOOK

## A Soldier's Tribute to His Chief

*By* JOSIAH GROUT  
Captain in the Union Army  
Governor of Vermont 1896 to 1898

Paragraphs describing events, the knowledge of  
which, gained by personal contact, is set  
forth that the reader may more com-  
pletely know the life that  
radiated its charm  
the world over

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1925

THE TUTTLE COMPANY  
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RUTLAND, VT.

# A LINCOLN BOOK

A Study of the Life of Abraham Lincoln

BY J. W. B. DUFFY

Author of "The Life of Abraham Lincoln"

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THE TUTTLE COMPANY

MADE IN U. S. A.

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## A SOLDIER'S TRIBUTE TO HIS CHIEF

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### FOREWORD

By the Author's Son

*The last months of my father's long, useful life were spent in the writing of this book. It marks the culmination of a plan which had occupied his mind during his years of retirement from active business in which he had exhaustively studied the best biographies of his subject and gleaned many incidents in the upbringing and character development of Lincoln which, in his judgment, had a direct and important bearing upon and paved the way for the noble service rendered by Lincoln as President.*

*My father often pointed out to me the perseverance of Lincoln, from early boyhood, which resulted in the slow but sure development of characteristics drawn from an average lineage and lowly surroundings into that strength, patience, wisdom and vision which made possible the glorious closing years of the Great Emancipator's life. Whatever success my father attained was due, I believe, to a perseverance strengthened and kept alive in the development of his own average endowments, by the example which his ideal furnished. He advised young men to follow the incentive found in a careful study of the life of Lincoln and he remained consistent by following that incentive as the beacon light of his own life. He has tried,*



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*in this book, to bring to the front, more briefly and connectedly than could be done in a biography of so great a life, those attributes, illustrated by incidents in the life of his subject, upon which he based his good counsel to me and to other young men. He hoped his book might aid all to realize that success is not so much a matter of lineage, surroundings or exceptional endowment, as it is a problem of patient, arduous and perseverant development of fundamentals inherent in all normal boys and girls.*

*For the authenticity of the facts surrounding the incidents considered up to the first inauguration of Lincoln as President, my father has relied on his biographical study, but his comments and conclusions are his own. From the first inauguration to the death of Lincoln in martyrdom, what my father has here written springs from his personal recollection of that strenuous and epoch-making period. During my father's military service he met President Lincoln, was charmed in the presence of that great and noble man, and, imbued with the spirit of the times and filled with loyalty to his flag and to the man whose wisdom, patience and vision had so successfully guided the destinies of that flag from the abyss of secession and rebellion to the heights of victory, he then, and ever after, held "Honest Abe Lincoln" as his ideal man and public servant, and this book is his tribute to that ideal. He loved the memory of Lincoln*

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*as a dutiful son loves his father, even as I loved mine, and into this final work of his life is poured all that love, and all the Americanism which was his creed in life.*

*My father wrote in a mental and physical vigor quite unusual in one of his years, and his death on July 19, 1925, after a very brief illness, at the age of eighty-four years, was a surprise and shock. He passed away in the midst of negotiations for the publication of this work. In completing these negotiations and offering this little volume to the public under the plan which was in father's mind, I feel I am providing a memorial to him, who was very dear to me, and passing on to future generations the clean, honorable, patriotic sentiments by which his public and private life was governed and directed.*

*His patriotism, at the age of nineteen, prompted him to answer one of the early calls of President Lincoln. He served over three years in the field with Co. I, First Vermont Volunteer Cavalry, participated in seventeen engagements, and closed his service with that organization with the rank of Captain after the severity of a wound at Broad Run, April 1, 1863, had compelled his discharge from active duty. A few months later, however, he volunteered for frontier service following the St. Albans raid, and served as Major in the 26th New York Cavalry.*

*He was a lawyer by profession and successfully*

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*practiced in Vermont and Illinois in the late sixties and in the seventies. For nearly forty years he owned and conducted a large farm in Derby, Vermont, and frequently wrote articles on agricultural and political topics which appeared in various newspapers and magazines. He represented his town in the Vermont legislature five times, was three times speaker of the House of Representatives, and once a member of the State Senate. He was governor of Vermont from 1896 to 1898 by a record republican majority. He was analytical, studious, thoughtful and serious. His interest in public affairs remained as keen to the end of his life as it was during his public service.*

*My father's life and thought qualified him to write this book and prompted him to publish a newly dressed conception of his ideal American. My hope is that this last work of his life, into which he put his heart and soul in tribute form, may find a niche in these busy times from which it may help in keeping alive the memory of that Americanism and patriotism which preserved the Union and crowned the Great Commander-in-Chief and the Brave Boys of sixty-one to sixty-five with undying glory.*

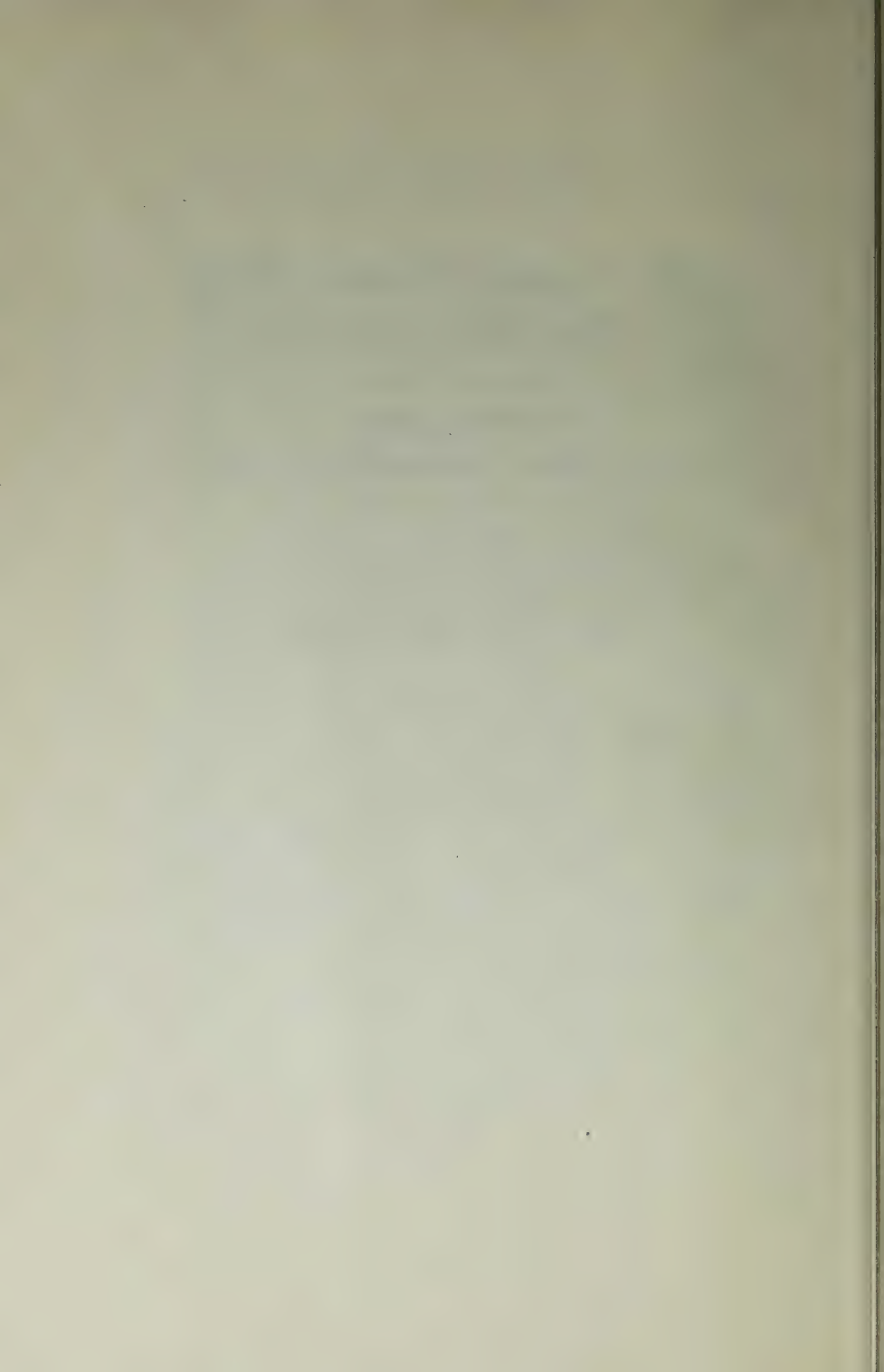
AARON H. GROUT



An Abraham Lincoln Book  
From Cover to Cover

In Paragraphs  
Longer or Shorter, As May Be The Subject

Emphasized by Elimination  
Made Interesting by Brevity



## FOREWORD

This book does not individualize Abraham Lincoln for comparison with his coadjutors in the Civil War. From such invidiousness his great nature would dissent. It relates, associates, and enunciates his co-ordinative relation to the activities of that strenuous time. He co-operated with all, people, Congress, and Cabinet. Here are given his most characteristic doings.

The thought of the book is to give the life of Abraham Lincoln, with as little collateral as possible. Just to give that great life graphically.

Around two thousand years ago Mary and a Carpenter gave the world a life that has blessed and evermore will bless humanity.

One hundred and sixteen years ago Nancy and a Carpenter gave America a life that is radiating its charm the world over.

Here you have the life of the Savior of the Union as briefly as is consistent with completeness.

The excuse for it is economy. Comprehensively you are given a great life. All old and young ought to know the life of Abraham Lincoln, and this little book supplies the ought.



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Noticing one thing and another along the way of an eighty-four-year journey, and having been one of the great commander's soldiers, and having met him face to face, hand to hand, a sense of acknowledgment actuates the doing of this book, that all may conveniently and more completely know the significance of Abraham Lincoln.

A few thoughts to illustrate the onward rush of time, to point the relativity of our twenty-nine Presidents, to characterize fiction, to mention the three great stars of the Union Army, will close the book.

Dedicated to the Memory  
OF  
Mrs. Abraham Lincoln  
A Good Woman  
A devoted wife and mother



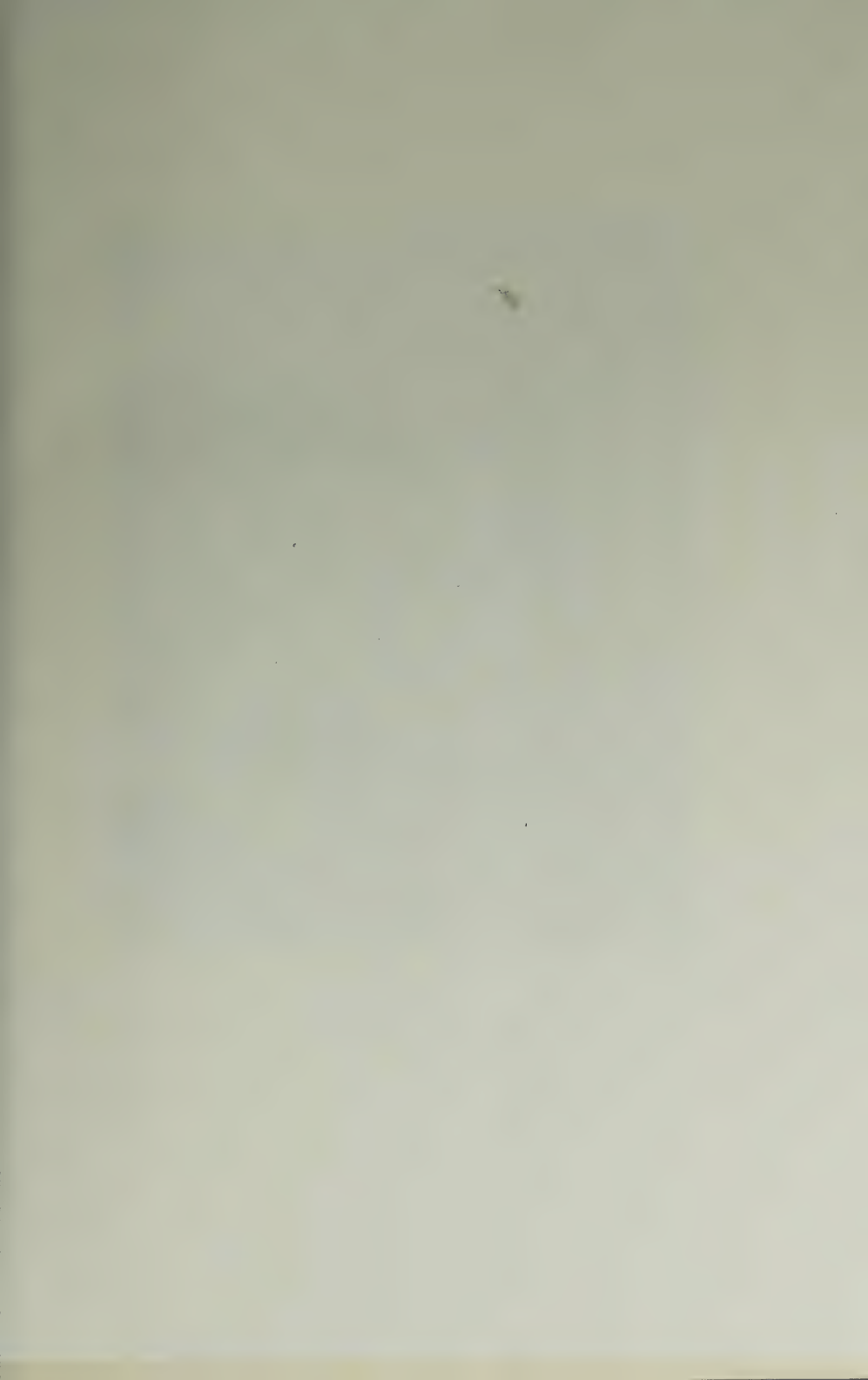


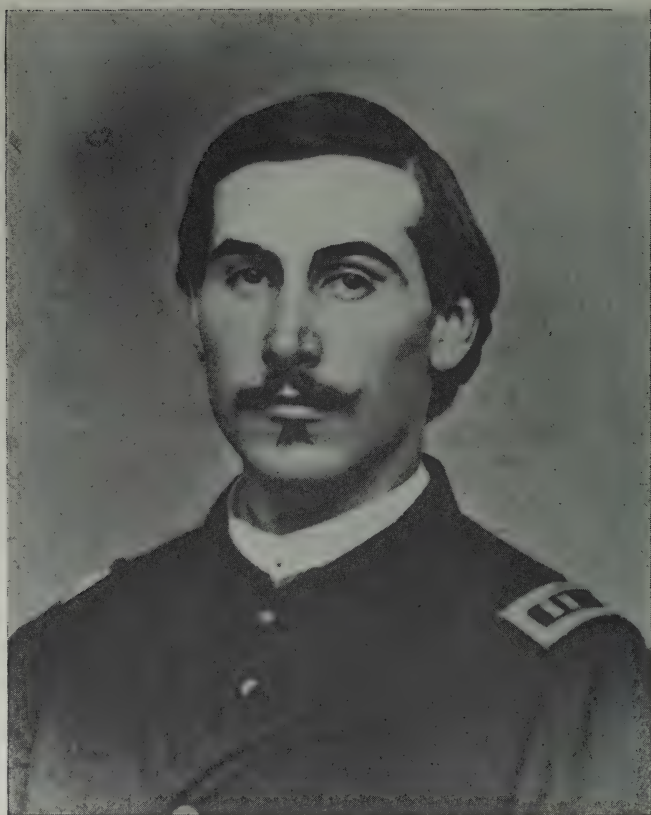
## THE KIND OF A BOOK IT IS

This book portrays a life of simple inception, self-development, independent action, brief endeavor and sublime culmination; a life along the middle course of safety, always avoiding divergence and danger; a life that singles itself from all contemporaneousness, and tells you explicitly its own wonderful accomplishments.

The life given in this book was modest; but triumphant—50 paragraphs round up and round out the greatest American life—a great world life.



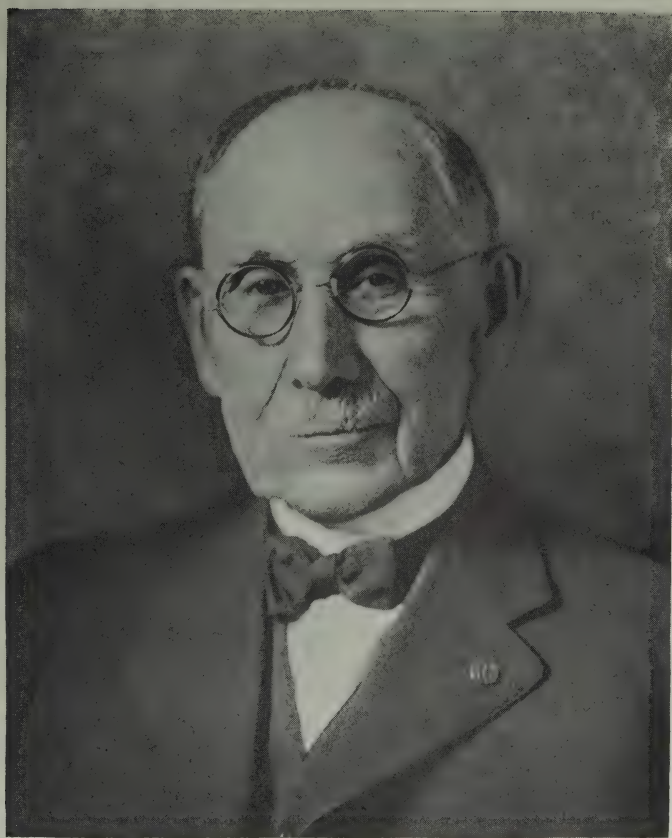




JOSIAH GROUT

Capt. 1st Vt. Cavalry—Major 26th N. Y. Cavalry,  
When he met President Lincoln





JOSIAH GROUT, LL.D.  
When writing this book



## AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT

In preparing this book I have consulted several of the many authors who have written about Abraham Lincoln. It is said three thousand have essayed, in one way and another, to pay him tribute of one kind or another.

For the facts of his life until he was President, I have consulted Arnold, Nicolay and Hay, Brooks, Rothschild, Holland, Charnwood and Chittenden. I have, however, followed Arnold more closely, because he knew Lincoln as a lawyer, rode the circuit with him, and was in Congress while he was President. After he was nominated and while he was President, I have followed very considerably my own recollection of his career.

## DEAR READER

As you read, watch Abraham Lincoln ascend the ladder of fame.

Notice how eagerly and successfully he makes every round;

How serenely he attains the most exalted level;  
How triumphantly he meets all exacting demands.

Read and read on—in two hours and thirty minutes—you will behold it all.

May you have a pleasant reading.





## ABRAHAM LINCOLN

### HIS BIRTH AND PARENTAGE

Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth President of the United States, was born February 12, 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky. His parents were Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln, who, with their parents, emigrated from the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia to Kentucky in about 1781.

### HIS GRANDFATHER

Abraham, the father of Thomas and the grandfather of the President, while at work about his home in Kentucky, was killed by an Indian when Thomas was about six years old. Mordecai, an older brother of Thomas, slew the Indian who had slain their father. This, in the presence of the distracted mother and her family.

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### THE LINCOLN LINEAGE

President Lincoln's ancestral lineage traces back to England. The first to cross over landed in Massachusetts, from whence the name appeared in Pennsylvania, later in northern Virginia and still later in Kentucky. The Lincoln ancestry were a stalwart, hardy, rugged, industrious, honest people, none having educational excellence but all averaging with their surroundings. He inherited physically the Lincolnian type, whence his personality; but mentally, the attractiveness of Nancy Hanks, whence a comprehensiveness of wonderful capacity. Thus did paternity and maternity combine in making a great life.

### THOMAS LINCOLN

Thomas Lincoln, the President's father, was literally uneducated. He was an honest, faithful, hard-working carpenter but not thrifty. He died in Illinois in 1851 but lived long enough to see something of the future awaiting his son.

### NANCY HANKS

All agree that Nancy Hanks was an exceptionally interesting and personally attractive woman. A devoted wife and mother. In the totality her life was admirable. This estimate exemplifies a nobility of character.

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### HIS FATHER MOVES TO INDIANA, WHERE HIS MOTHER DIES

Thomas Lincoln, with his family, when Abraham was eight, moved to Spencer County, Indiana—the year that state was admitted to the Union—where a rude home was constructed upon a contemplated farm a few miles from Gentryville. Two years later Nancy Hanks Lincoln passed to her reward. This sad loss bore heavily upon the boy Abraham. His good mother had taught him to read, and to write a beautiful, readable, round-letter hand, which he ever after used. Nancy Hanks Lincoln was buried in the rudest way in a nearby ground without service. A little later Abraham wrote a distant clergyman soliciting his service and months afterward the good clergyman, on horseback, came to the Lincoln home and held a beautiful service at the mother's grave, which was attended by the neighbors for miles around. It was a great satisfaction to Abraham that his dear mother had taught him, so that at the age of ten, he could write the clergyman, who had journeyed many miles to render the service that finally committed his mother to the care of her God. It very impressively affected the boy, greatly influencing his boyhood; and acting kindly in moulding that noble manhood upon which so many love to dwell.

Nancy Hanks Lincoln's burial ground now has public recognition.

### THOMAS LINCOLN'S SECOND MARRIAGE

Thomas Lincoln afterward married a Mrs. Johnson, a widow with three children. Abraham's new mother was a noble woman, as he in later life frequently said; and he was a noble boy, as she often said, never crossing her advice or giving her an unkind word or committing an act of disobedience. She had a fair education and kindly taught the boy in his early endeavors as he rested many an evening upon the fireplace hearth, reading some borrowed book by the light of a pine knot fire. This good woman was indeed a good mother, alike to her own and her adopted children. She had means of her own and very soon changed the open front hovel of the home she found to a closed-in, window-lighted log house. She supplied comfortable beds and bedding for the family, and otherwise made the home of Abraham Lincoln very much better than it had been. Thomas Lincoln was a better carpenter than farmer, and much of his time was spent among the neighbors doing carpenter work while his wife and the children did the farming; thus sped away, as birds on the wing, those years of his life, in which he became a young man.



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### REMOVAL TO ILLINOIS

The boy Abraham lived with his parents until of age, assisting in all helpful ways to keep the strap and buckle together. At this time, 1830, Thomas Lincoln, with his family of seven and his household effects, moved from the Indiana home, by a four-ox team driven by the boy Abraham, to a new home in Illinois near Decatur, Macon County, where Abraham assisted in opening up the new farm. He split the rails that fenced the first corn field, holding the plow that turned the sod for the corn.

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## DOWN THE MISSISSIPPI TO NEW ORLEANS

In the spring of 1828, at the age of nineteen, young Lincoln, with another young man, made a trip to New Orleans down the Mississippi, on a flat boat of his own construction loaded with bacon and other farm products. They disposed of the cargo to such excellent advantage that again, three years later, he was employed to make another trip with another young man down the same old river to the same old city with the same kind of cargo, which trip was also a success. The navigation of the river and the general management of these trips, notwithstanding his youth, were upon young Lincoln.

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### HE SAW THE SLAVE TRADE AND HAD HIS FORTUNE TOLD

In making the New Orleans trips, slave life was very considerably unfolded to him. He saw the slave traffic emphasized from the auction block. Family relations broken, as so much glass; father, mother, and children sent hither and yon at the beck of the highest bidder. This deeply impressed him and undoubtedly had to do with his convictions and acts in after-life. In making these trips he and the young man had their fortunes told by a negress fortune teller. Among other predictions she told young Lincoln that he would be President some time. Young Lincoln brushed the compliment aside in conversation with his companion as meaning nothing; but the companion replied, "She did not tell me I would be President." Perhaps the Voudou *saw something*.

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### AS AN ATHLETE

Abraham Lincoln, at twenty-one years of age, was a tall, six-feet-four, rugged, muscular, vigorous, athletic young man possessing in unusual degree all these attributes of strength. He could outlift, outjump, outrun, outchop, and wrestle down any and all he met. Every ounce of his 180 pounds was strength. He had been reared upon the homely simplicities of plain, coarse living and was a quivering mass of human vitality. Of all this he seemed entirely unconscious, never demonstrating his superiority and power of strength unless solicited or challenged.

### NEW SALEM STORE

Upon leaving his cabin home, his first employment was at the New Salem Store, which was quite a resort for that region as to trade, sociability, loafing, and other features of frontier life.



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### THE CLEARY GROVE BOYS

Not far from the New Salem store there was a community known as the Cleary Grove Boys. They were from the farms round about and had occasional meetings in which they practiced physical exercises of one kind and another to test superiority of strength. Hearing of young Lincoln's strength they challenged him to a test with their leader. The Boys met at the store, where a large company had gathered to see it out. Abraham reluctantly accepted the challenge and chose wrestling as the determining exercise. He and the Cleary Grove Boys' champion joined in the contest, in which he was soon the victor. The Boys claimed foul play and arrayed themselves for an interference. Young Lincoln, feeling the unfairness of the proposed attack, became thoroughly aroused and, backing against the store, dared the whole company. Whereupon, the leader, whom he had just vanquished, stepped forward, acknowledging fair defeat and pledging fidelity. Ever after the Cleary Grove Boys, who became quite a numerous body, regardless of political faith, were, in all Abraham Lincoln's appeals to the people, unanimously for him. Several of the Boys called upon him while President and quite a number joined in the funeral exercises at Springfield.

### ABRAHAM'S EDUCATION

He was not educated in the schools. Aided by his good mothers he educated himself. He was a self-made man as to all educational attainments and all other essential qualifications of manly nobleness and greatness. He was ever dissatisfied if he did not know what others knew. He was a human entity, with a sufficiency unto himself, equal to any emergency. This is saying a great deal, but no more than the literal of his life warrants. He borrowed a book on surveying and soon, all by himself, he was a surveyor. He borrowed a book on geometry and soon, all by himself, he was a geometrician. He borrowed a few law books and soon, all by himself, he was a lawyer. He read his mother's Bible, and his letters, speeches, arguments and daily conversation sparkled with Biblical quotations. His ideals were original, of lofty conception, realizable only by superior determination, originating in the soul of an unusual humanity. This was not because of education, but because of a great nature telling education many things it never did and never will know. Prodigies come and go—but the world knoweth not wherefrom or whereto. It will, however, remain interesting to know why it was that Abraham Lincoln *chose* so wisely, *acted* so fearlessly, and *accomplished* so wonderfully, as though his en-

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deavors were mysterious efforts. Be it remembered though, he was a graduate from the University of Nature, where sports, games, and the like are of secondary consideration.

### HIS HABITS AND HIS WAY

Abraham Lincoln did not *drink*, *swear*, or *use tobacco*, and never fought unless obliged to. All knew he could fight and challenges were omitted. He treated all of all classes with a kindness and respectfulness born of superiority. Though himself of rough exterior, and conscious of this, he brought all of whatever rank or station or pretension to the magnanimity of his own great noble nature. The honesty of purpose, dominating all his actions, endeared him, made him untold friends; and about the benignity of such greatness, the world will continue to talk while many another great man will be forgotten. His winsome way was persuasiveness, and then some more persuasiveness; and so patiently on and on, until, unconsciously, *all* were of the same impulse, the same thought, the same mind, and the same action. No other ruler, ever in all history, in such an inoffensive way, so completely gathered around him the high and the low for duty and action. He was a wonderful persuader of men.

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### IN THE BLACK HAWK WAR

In 1832, the New Salem Store having been closed, Lincoln was commissioned to raise a company for service in the Black Hawk War. He raised the company instantler, a number of the Cleary Grove Boys enlisting in it, and was elected captain at its organization. This success afforded him much pleasure and he rendered a valiant service. His company, having served its term of enlistment, was mustered out.

A time after this another company was raised at Springfield to further regulate bold Black Hawks' doings, and in this company he served as a private. His service as a soldier, with authority or without, was of the highest order, eliciting commendation. His last service was in the cavalry, and his saddle, his bridle, his horse, and all the paraphernalia of his equipment were *always* in order; at every call to arms he was found in the ranks. In this last service he saw General Zachary Taylor, Lieutenant Jefferson Davis and Major Robert Anderson, all of the United States Army, mustering and commanding the military expedition against Black Hawk. About twelve years later, as a Whig, he took part in helping elect General Taylor President; when President himself, he met Major Anderson after the surrender of Sumter and, we must believe, knew of Jefferson Davis as President of the Confederacy.



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## A LINCOLN BOOK

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### ANNE RUTLEDGE

While at New Salem young Lincoln became acquainted with Anne Rutledge, who, it is said, was an attractive, beautiful young woman. The acquaintance led to a mutuality which was cut short by her death. This, it is said, most deeply and sadly affected the young man. It weighed very heavily upon him, and so seriously that friendly influences intervened to console and cheer. It is not strange that one of such deep feeling and such honest convictions should be thus affected.

### STILL AT NEW SALEM

Some time after leaving his employment in the New Salem store, he formed a partnership, the business of which continued about one year when it was closed by failure. He was postmaster during this time, the office being discontinued with the close of the store. The bills of the failure he in later years paid in full. During his New Salem life he was very studious. He did surveying and soon had considerable of that class of work to do, receiving meager compensation, which, however, served a kindly purpose in helping to keep along. He soon mastered the borrowed law books and was quite ready in Black-

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stone and Kent. In a modest way he was in demand for speeches of one kind and another. He was a candidate for the legislature at the close of the Black Hawk War, but was defeated.

Please note, in the six years he was at New Salem, what a wonderfully progressive development of the full-sized man, in all the aspects of life, he made. He was a merchant, a postmaster, a surveyor, a lawyer, a master of geometry, and a public speaker. He walked back and forth many a time from New Salem to Springfield, a distance of fourteen miles, having frequently with him a book from which he would read as he walked. Such an intensiveness *to know* and such a comprehensiveness in *knowing* the things of life are indeed most rare.

### AN INCIDENT OF HONESTY

As stated, during his partnership at New Salem young Lincoln was postmaster, which office he held until discontinued. He closed the office owing the government about eighteen dollars. After he moved from New Salem to Springfield and was struggling with the adversities of beginning a law practice and poverty generally, an agent from the post office department called on him requesting settlement. A friend present, knowing the mission of the agent, feared his ability to pay, but Lincoln said, "You wait a minute"; and went to an old trunk in his office and took out of it an old leather bag and counted out the exact amount required, saying, "That is the identical sum I counted from the post-office drawer when I closed the office." This shows a refreshing exactitude in the use of public funds, under the most trying circumstances; and furnishes a proud example to all trust-fund holders.

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ELECTED TO THE LEGISLATURE. ADMITTED  
TO THE BAR. MOVED TO SPRINGFIELD.  
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OLD. THIRTY-  
FIVE YEARS OLD.

The preceding paragraphs relate to young Lincoln's life before he was twenty-five years old. In 1834, at twenty-five, he was elected to the Illinois legislature then held at Vandalia. He was again elected in 1836, in 1838, and in 1840. He was admitted to the Bar in 1836, and moved to Springfield in 1837. His early self-training, self-preparation, self-development, self-determination began to unfold *visions* and still more *visions*; and he excelled in all things that came his way. He had great influence in the legislative affairs of Illinois for eight years. He was instrumental in moving the capital from Vandalia to Springfield. He met the great men of the state, and great men of other states, measuring up acceptably against them all. He became the recognized leader of the Whig party in Illinois. He rode the circuit with the great lawyers of the state. He was in great demand as a public speaker. He had a full hand of law business. He paid off all his old debts to the last dollar; and in 1844, at thirty-five, was one of the great men of the West.

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### HIS SPEECHES

Perhaps one of his greatest speeches was at Springfield, when he was thirty-eight, before the Young Men's Lyceum Club. His subject was the *Perpetuation* of the Government. In this speech he analyzed our governmental structure from A to Z, and pointed out most forcibly its strength, its weakness, its dangers, and clearly emphasized the great duty of American citizenship. This speech, most exhaustive and complete, attracted much attention, augmented his growing fame and, in the light of his after life, seems prophetic. In the Log Cabin, Hard Cider Campaign of 1840, he was upon the Whig electoral ticket, and while others drank the cider he made the speeches. That campaign was one of the most exciting, the most enthusiastic of any the country has ever had. To recount his many speeches, though all of them were interesting and some even more than that, would be beyond the scope of this book. Suffice it that all of them were good, many good plus, always fully meeting the expectations of the occasions requiring them. This is said thinking the Seven Douglas Joint Debate Speeches, which might well be called seven wonders, are sufficiently noticed hereinafter. A perusal of his many hundred speeches leads one to wonder wherefrom so many marvels came.



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### HIS LETTERS

He wrote a great many letters of more or less importance. Some very important, some very pertinent.

During his administration he corresponded with his Generals, his Commodores, and the outside political world.

When he gave the command of the Army of the Potomac to General Hooker, he reminded him in a letter of the adverse criticisms he had indulged as to the administration's management of the Army; and he also reminded him of his failure to support Burnside at Fredericksburg; and, after emphatically censuring these faults, remarked that he was giving him the important command, not because of his untimely criticisms, but "in spite of them," and hoped he would prove equal to his appointment.

This letter reveals a diplomacy and patience that ruled him in so many instances.

Hooker was the fighting "Joe" of the Army of the Potomac. The rashness that led in battle, also led in unwise criticisms. Hoping, however, to find victory in dashing leadership, Lincoln magnanimously condoning indiscretions promoted the man who had wronged *him*, wronged his friend, and wronged the country.

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He wrote General McClellan several letters, yes, many letters, suggestive of action while he commanded the Army of the Potomac. These letters all had an urgency atmosphere.

He wrote General Grant several letters, all of them conveying thanks and congratulation of the frankest kind.

In 1863, he wrote a letter to fifty of his old friends who had invited him to go to Springfield and meet them in a talk-over of the war. He declined the invitation, but gave them, at length, a complete resume of the war from its onset; and a prospective full of hopeful determination. This was an able letter and was freely used, politically and otherwise, to bring up the faltering and cheer the hesitating.

He wrote several letters to public men who belabored him with all manner of criticisms, combatting, explaining and generally satisfying.

He wrote a beautiful consolatory letter to Mrs. Bixby who had given five of her sons to the death list of battle.

He was as apt at letter writing as at any of his superior gifts.

His many, many letters were from the point of the pen.

### RIDING THE CIRCUIT

In riding the circuit as a lawyer, he was easily the peer of all his associates, being one of the leading lawyers of Illinois. The custom then was for the lawyers on horse-back to ride from one county seat to another trying cases. This so-called circuit riding he followed from 1840 to 1860. Perhaps in the later years of this period less than in the earlier because railroads had intervened somewhat to change the methods of travel. The circuit practice made a busy life for him, yielded a fair compensation, and extended his acquaintance to all parts of the state. His charges were always on the merciful side. It is said he enjoyed the circuit riding work. In all his trial work, as a lawyer, he excelled. None equalled him before the jury. Always sympathetic, witty, abounding with anecdotes, persuasive with appeals, interesting in manner, plain and simple in person, he commanded and held the attention and won the conviction of both Court and jury; so that, with one accord, he was regarded an easy leader at the Bar. A detailed account of his circuit riding suggests too much space.

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### AS A STORY TELLER

As in other things, he was especially gifted in story telling. He was always ready with a story, an anecdote, or some apt illustration of the subject matter under consideration. His vivacious nature stood him in good stead, in pleasing a jury, illustrating an argument, lending force to a speech, entertaining a company, whiling away time or giving point to a thought. He was so gifted in this respect that he was frequently sought to enliven social occasions. Some have criticised this gift as too frivolous, but without it his solemn nature would have been too serious. He needed the gift to balance a manhood equal to the requirements of an earnest life.







THE LINCOLN HOME  
Springfield, Ill.

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### HE WAS CHALLENGED

In 1839, a young lady by the name of Mary Todd came to Springfield from Lexington, Kentucky, to visit a sister, Mrs. Vivian Edwards. Miss Todd was a fine appearing, vivacious young lady, twenty-one years old, and had just graduated from a Lexington boarding school. Her father was a Supreme Court judge in the State of Kentucky, where the Todd family ranked high. The Edwards family also ranked high in Illinois. Vivian Edwards' father was territorial governor and one of the first senators from the state. Vivian Edwards was a leading lawyer. The young men of Springfield paid Miss Todd marked attention. Among her suitors was the subject of our thought.

In the city of Springfield there then lived a bachelor Irishman by the name of James Shields, who was afterward Senator from two states, an officer in the Mexican War, and a general in the Civil War. Shields was then auditor for the State of Illinois and a lawyer. A man of considerable ability, a fair stock of pomposity, and a number of bachelor eccentricities. Miss Todd wrote some close-fitting caricatures of the gentleman, which were published anonymously in a local paper. Shields, very much disturbed, demanded of the paper to know the author, and the

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editor advised with Lincoln, who said, "Tell him I wrote the articles." This was done and Shields challenged Lincoln to a duel. Though opposed to duelling, he accepted the challenge and chose broad swords as the weapons and Alton in Missouri opposite on the Mississippi, the place. Knowing Lincoln's strength as a swordsman and his undoubted courage, the challenge was withdrawn, and so the matter ended.

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## A SOLDIER'S TRIBUTE TO HIS CHIEF

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### HE WAS MARRIED

In November 1842, Abraham Lincoln, thirty-three, and Mary Todd, twenty-three, were married at Springfield. They boarded at a hotel for a while, paying four dollars a week for board and rooms, the two. The young wife was happy and expressed to friends great satisfaction at having married a man of mind, heart and purpose for all the demands of life. Boarding at the hotel was terminated by purchasing a house of modest pretensions, furnishing the same and setting up housekeeping, all the which is now as it was when the family sorrowfully left it for the White House in Washington.

In this modest home was born to the Lincolns in 1843, a son, Robert Todd; in 1846, another son, Edward Baker; in 1850, another son, William Wallace; and in 1853, another son, Thomas. Of these children, Edward Baker passed away before the family left Springfield. William Wallace died in the White House. Thomas deceased in 1872. Robert Todd Lincoln was a prominent lawyer of Chicago, has his winter home in Washington, D. C., has been Secretary of War, Minister to England, and last but not least, has a summer home at Manchester, Vermont. This happy family that left a happy home for *public life* returned not to its own.

### HE WAS IN CONGRESS

In 1847, he entered Congress. Here he was Abraham Lincoln, first, last and always. He quickly asserted himself, in one way and another, upon one subject and another. He made a few speeches of one kind and another, commanding considerable attention for a new member. He was the only Whig from Illinois. He introduced a bill to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia. He made a few somewhat political speeches from which all well knew he was for General Taylor for President. He did not quite like his congressional stay in Washington. He rather ride the circuit in Illinois. The Washington life took him too much away from home, away from business, and had for him no pleasing compensations. He was not a candidate for re-election and returned to his practice, with redoubled interest and effort.



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### FROM 1850 TO 1860 NOMINATED AND ELECTED PRESIDENT

This decade of his life was indeed a busy one. He had so matured himself, in both law and politics, that he was in great demand. His time was filled to the brim with calls political and legal. He was sought in the most important legal contests and constantly required politically. The dissolution of the old Whig party and the formation of the new Republican party very much interested him, absorbing much of his time. During this ten-year period he was constantly in the lime light. Important litigation, calling him to Chicago, to eastern points and elsewhere, changed his law practice from riding the circuit to the United States Courts. The political contest in Kansas, the Douglas debates, the ever-up-and-at-it slave question, and politics generally, magnified his importance, unavoidably making him a logical candidate of the new party. At the great wigwam in Chicago in 1860, he was nominated for the Presidency by the Republican party. As naturally as water descends an incline, he was victorious in the following November election. Thus at fifty-one years of age he became President. The negress Voudou, in 1831, when he made his trip to New Orleans, must

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have seen something. During his life in Springfield he had several partnerships with leading lawyers, in all of which he was the junior; because perhaps he was the younger; perhaps, too, because he was modest and deferential.

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### PARTING OF THE WAYS

He had made *his* way from childhood to manhood. He had known the exactions of poverty and was enjoying the easements of competency. He had realized surprising results. He was a great lawyer, a great statesman, and a great man. He had a pleasant home wherein dwelt love. He had met the undertakings of life in *his* own way. They were *his* seekings, *his* acquirements, and *his* enjoyments.

Now being President, public duties were imposed. He was required and commanded to a new field. He was no longer to do for himself but for his country—for which no man had greater love. His new role of action was to be *duty*, not *choice*. It was imposed upon him *to do* as the public weal required. The duties of the office of President of the United States were his to perform. These duties were of a kind that no President had been or has been called upon to discharge. He was confronted by appalling requirements. Disloyalty was contemptuously floating the flag of disunion. Seven states and as many million people were in arms to destroy. As many more million people scattered over the North were only half loyal. All meddled as to what to do, how to do, and when to do. Great, very great were the impositions placed upon Abraham Lincoln as President.

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The four bloody years of strife and struggle from 1861 to 1865 tell far better the magnitude of his official duties than pen can. Upon a wise decision, judicious discharge of all official duties, depended the stability of the Nation.

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### THE SQUARE AND THE CUBE

At this time of his life, it can well be said, that in all his undertakings, in everything he did, the *linear*, the *square*, and the *cube* were always exact to an iota. He did nothing at random. His intuitions were as safe as his calculations. He never stumbled over blunders. Thus inspirationally equipped he went forth to the greatest work ever undertaken by a President.

### HIS RELIGION

He was not a member of any church. He believed in Divine Providence, an overruling, ever-guiding Providence. He believed in right, in being right, and doing right.

Few if any of all our Presidents, in speeches, messages, official papers and official acts, more frequently or more suitably acknowledged implicit dependence upon Divine Providence.



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### HE LEAVES SPRINGFIELD

When the intense excitement of the presidential election of 1860 had culminated in the choice of Abraham Lincoln for President, another excitement, more intense and far more disturbing, boldly asserted itself in various threatening ways. Instead of a calm after the storm, another storm of far more alarming pretensions, that knew no bow of peace, began making up. This great storm of such alarming aspects the President-elect undertook to avoid. He employed all allaying influences at his command, but to no purpose. This storm was the Civil War, and this no one more thoroughly realized than Abraham Lincoln. He made preparation for an early arrival in Washington that he might be in the best possible position to render the best possible service in saving the country. On the 11th day of February, having bidden his dear stepmother good-bye, with his family and a few personal friends, he left his home for Washington. At the station, to see him off, a large company of old friends and neighbors gathered; and to them, as the train was about leaving, he made the following impressive, prophetic talk:

\*“My Friends: no one, not in my position, can realize the sadness I feel at this parting.

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To this people I owe all that I am. Here I have lived more than a quarter of a century. Here my children were born and here one of them lies buried. I know not how soon I shall see you again. I go to assume a task more difficult than that which has devolved upon any other man since Washington. He never would have succeeded except for the aid of Divine Providence, upon which he relied. I feel that I cannot succeed without the same Divine blessing which sustained him and on the same Almighty Being I place my reliance for support. And I hope you, my friends, will all pray that I may receive that Divine assistance, without which I cannot succeed, but with which success is certain. I then bid you an affectionate farewell."

Thus did Abraham Lincoln, as the train rolled away to the East, most solemnly and sacredly, with his dear family, leave his dear home and dear friends in sadness and sorrow, never more in life to return.

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\*From Arnold's life of Lincoln.

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### HIS JOURNEY TO WASHINGTON

His route to the National Capital was through Indiana, Ohio, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. In these states he made speeches agreeably to previous arrangement. He was everywhere well received. He expected to speak in Baltimore. However, when he reached Harrisburg and there did not find the Baltimore committee of reception, as was promised, and was advised by a special committee from Washington that assassination awaited him in Baltimore, he allowed the detectives to take charge of his train and, by a ruse, run it through to Washington without stopping in Baltimore. Thus, about the 20th of February, he was quartered at Willard's Hotel in the city of Washington, consulting and advising, as best he could, with reference to the impending pandemonium of secession.

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### HE WAS INAUGURATED

His inauguration, March 4th, 1861, was the most intensely exciting of any, before or since, of all the Presidents. Armed soldiers of the Confederacy viewed it from the Virginia side across the Potomac. Southern senators and members were packing their grips and leaving for home. All Washington City was a tremor of fear. An immense audience gathered to hear the incoming address. It was a wonderful production filled with commanding appeal and entreaty. He besought with warning, with argument, with logic and the most strenuous sentences framable from the English language. Every word weighed a pound, every sentence weighed a hundred pounds and the address weighed a ton. The great throng that attended the inaugural ceremony returned to their homes, deeply impressed by the vastness of the new President; believing that, of all our great men, the right one had been chosen to pilot the nation across the angry waters of rebellion into the haven of peace and future greatness. Indeed it was a wonderful address. It was so received and ever since has been so considered.

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### AS PRESIDENT

Thus far you have been told about the child, the boy, the young man, the man, the President-elect and inaugurated.

From this on you will be told about the President of the United States from March 4, 1861, to April 14, 1865.

The United States of America had existed 70 years under the Constitution when Abraham Lincoln was elected President.

The States of the Union then numbered 33 — 19 of which were free and 14 were slave.

The inception of the Civil War was to dismember the Union, create a confederacy; have, at the North, the United States of America, with 19 free States, at the South a Confederacy with 12 slave States; leaving the remaining territory of the United States an open question.

This Kilkenny inception was an impossibility. Its realization would have been a perpetual motion of disturbance.

Read on and know how profoundly Abraham Lincoln regarded the proposition and how judiciously he disposed of it.

His action was an indispensable contribution to the Union of the 48 States now constituting the United States of America; and over every rood of our glorious Union may a 48-star flag forever float.



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### HIS CABINET

President Lincoln, before leaving Springfield, selected as his Cabinet, Seward, New York—State; Chase, Ohio—Treasury; Cameron, Pennsylvania—War (soon changed to Stanton, who was in Buchanan's Cabinet); Wells, Connecticut—Navy; Smith, Indiana—Interior; Blair, Maryland—Postmaster General; and Bates, Missouri—Attorney General. Seward, Chase, Cameron and Bates had been candidates against him for the Presidency. This selection was about evenly divided, as to Republican and Democratic antecedents. Thus, you see, a wise purpose of service in equalizing the Cabinet honors. These were all able, representative men of the different states from which they came. They were chosen with great care, as to fitness, and with especial reference to the sectional conditions of the country.

This Cabinet, however, soon disclosed varying views. Each one had responsibility notions, as to what should be done with questions confronting the administration. It took a little while, but not long, however, to adjust the variances and to have it pleasantly and distinctly understood that Abraham Lincoln was President, and that the able advisers he had called around him were his Cabinet Officers. These distin-

guished associates soon came to know, in a pleasant way, that their chief well knew the prerogatives and duties of his office, and also the duties of their particular offices, and it came about in such a way that all enjoyed the knowledge thus inculcated.

His "common sense," and what an abundance of it he had, soon asserted itself in the rapidly multiplying demands of the stress and strife of that strenuous time. The great men of his Cabinet joined hands with the great men of Congress, the great men of the country; and the common people, including the noble women, joined hands with the more representative for that pull, that long pull, that strong pull, that pull all together, with the army behind and in front, that finally landed the triumph of victory and Union.

The inspiration of this final triumph has long since been ascribed to Abraham Lincoln.

This Cabinet, so wisely selected, of such widespread influence, in the coming and going of the turbulent events of that rocky time, was somewhat modified during President Lincoln's administration, not for reasons altogether his own, but more because of important public demand.

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### AS EMANCIPATOR

Slavery was the political slogan of many a presidential campaign preceding the Civil War. This institution was beset by many objections, some reasonable and some perhaps not so reasonable, but of whichever type, sharply resented by the South; and the sharper the resentment the more abundant the objections. The objections kept the North busy and the resentment kept the South busy, politically speaking. This state of affairs obtained more particularly in the presidential campaigns from 1840 to 1860, when they culminated in the Civil War. These campaigns were more or less virulent and violent, gradually becoming the entering wedge of attempted disunion. At last they became unreasonable, their contentions uncontrollable, and nothing but the torch of war would do; hence the greatest war, the most important war, the most destructive war in which this country ever engaged.

In 1860 Abraham Lincoln was elected President, whereupon the South "crossed the Rubicon," burned its bridges, moved out into the Cimerian darkness of secession and seven Southern States almost immediately organized a Confederacy, to make good the ordinances of secession they had ordained.

The United States Government had tolerated Slavery for seventy years, during which time, by hook

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or crook, it had enjoyed its own way. During these seventy years most of the Presidents had been chosen without special regard to Slavery. Mr. Lincoln, the second candidate of the Republican party, had been elected as a Republican and the South would have nothing to do with a President elected upon a Republican platform or with a government administered by a Republican President.

Immediately upon his election Mr. Lincoln took great pains to have it understood that his administration would not interfere with Slavery as it then existed. He made speeches and gave out statements amounting to such an assurance. He said to the promoters of the Southern Rebellion, "I shall take care that the laws of the Union be faithfully executed in all the States. That you can have no conflict without being yourselves the aggressors. You have no oath registered in Heaven to destroy the government, while I have the most solemn one to preserve, protect, and defend it."

These candid, solemn words of appeal only increased the jeers and sneers of the South, precipitating overt acts and open rebellion.

The slave question in the forties and fifties of the last century was much debated. It was one of the subjects of common discussion. The pulpits and the forum vied with each other in delineating the *pros*



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and *cons* of human slavery. "Uncle Tom's Cabin," by Harriet Beecher Stowe, a sister of Henry Ward Beecher, a book of fiction, but having its Cabin, Uncle Tom, the lash, and last but not least, its Topsy, did more than anything else, probably, to inflame the South and lead the North in its sense of duty as to the great subject matter that led to the Civil War. True it is, though strange it may be, that fiction frequently accomplishes greater results in thought and action than truth. This assertion finds verity not only in "Uncle Tom's Cabin" and the "Perfect Tribute" but in many another instance in the doings of the world.

During this period Elijah P. Lovejoy emigrated from Maine to St. Louis, Mo., where he preached the gospel and published a paper condemning Slavery. Soon life was made intolerable for him and he moved across the Mississippi to the Illinois side, preaching and publishing as in Missouri. His ruffian pursuers followed him, burned his printing office, threw his printing press into the Mississippi, and murdered him.

In the middle fifties Charles Sumner, a Senator from Massachusetts, made a speech in the United States Senate portraying the evils of Slavery; whereupon Preston S. Brooks, a member of the House of Representatives, from South Carolina, bludgeoned him in the senate chamber with a heavy cane over



the head and shoulders, whereof his life was despaired.

Toward the close of the fifties John Brown raided Harpers Ferry to release the slaves, for the doing of which he was expeditiously hung at Charlestown, Virginia.

When Missouri was admitted to the Union, as a slave state, it was under the Missouri Compromise, which, if observed, would protect Kansas from being a slave state; but, when Kansas asked to be admitted, the slave power at Washington repealed the compromise and sought to make it a slave state. The anti-slavery settlers, protesting, prepared a constitution and took steps to make it a free state; and the pro-slavery settlers prepared a constitution to make it a slave state and acted accordingly. This inaugurated a contentious state of affairs in Kansas covering a part of the President Pierce administration and the whole of President Buchanan's. Government troops were on guard ostensibly to keep the peace, while the free state settlers had military organizations to assert their rights. Several elections were held to get the will of the settlers and an armed band of Missouri ruffians frequently interfered at these elections. The armed bands of the settlers were mostly led by John Brown. This contentious state of affairs,

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continuing so long, properly gave the territory the name of "Bleeding Kansas."

Kansas was not admitted until the incoming of Lincoln's administration. During the years of this unseemly strife Congress was constantly scintillating sparks of antagonism which kept up an explosive political condition both sides of Mason and Dixon's Line. All took part and party lines were drawn with great rigidity, great relentlessness, and a hatred not easy now to understand.

In 1858, Stephen A. Douglas, U. S. Senator from Illinois, was a democratic candidate for re-election, and Abraham Lincoln was a republican candidate for his place in the Senate. Douglas was the "little giant" of the Senate. He was recognized as one of the leading public men of the country. He was a ready lawyer, an able judge, had been twice elected to the House and twice to the Senate at Washington. Lincoln was known as a leading lawyer of Illinois, quick, ready, and apt; but as a public character it was not known just what he might be. These candidates arranged seven joint debates covering the State of Illinois. They met each other at the important towns and cities and debated the pending political questions of that time; and Slavery practically included them all. It was a red-hot subject of discus-

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sion throughout the country. Great attention was given these debates by North and South alike.

Douglas was returned to the Senate by a small Joint Assembly vote, but Lincoln became the next President. It was conceded in these debates that he more than held his own, presenting everything *convincingly* and leaving everything *conclusively*. The debates gave him a national reputation as a public speaker, as an orator, and made him an authority as to the great slave question, in all its aspects.

Following the debating contest in Illinois, Mr. Lincoln was invited to speak at other more eastern points and in New York. He accepted these invitations, speaking acceptably everywhere and capping the climax in his great Cooper Institute Speech. This speech, more fully than any he had before made, defined his attitude toward Slavery and did more than all else he had ever done to nominate him for the Presidency.

As before stated, when elected, he took in hand the slave question; and from time to time dealt with it, as events required, offering the South, at every step and stage, the utmost fairness; until at last, when patience ceased to be a virtue as a war measure, he proclaimed the abolition of Slavery; and upon his proclamation emancipating the slave he "invoked the

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considerate judgment of mankind and the gracious favor of Almighty God.”

This was, is, and ever will be the greatest act of his life, the greatest accomplishment of the Civil War. More than anyone else, more than all else, he will ever be regarded responsible for the abolishment of American Slavery, which became necessary to save the Union and give the country a peaceful future.

The intense excitement of the slave period had its humorous happenings. In one of the Douglas debates Mr. Douglas said of Mr. Lincoln that he tended a *bar* in the New Salem store where he was a clerk; and Mr. Lincoln replied that he did, and that while he was inside the *bar* Judge Douglas was just outside with his foot on the brass rail; that they simply occupied the well-known opposite sides of the *bar*.

Mr. Lincoln's Cooper Institute Speech drew a great overflow audience. William Cullen Bryant, the great poet, presided at the meeting. Peter Cooper, who gave the Institute, was present. Horace Greeley was present with a friend he introduced to Mr. Lincoln. The friend quickly said to Mr. Greeley that he was a very homely man. As Mr. Lincoln warmed up with his speech, the friend whispered to Mr. Greeley that he was the handsomest man he ever saw.



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The masterful way, the kind and considerate way, in which Abraham Lincoln looked and acted upon the slave question during his presidency should evermore be regarded a great tribute to his name and memory.

During the excitement and controversy leading to emancipation no one in all the country was, at heart, more willing than he. In wise desire he stood alone and seemed to be the only one who comprehended the importance of taking every step safely. Many insisted that Slavery should be abolished regardless of the Union; but history will credit the President with holding the higher and better view, and coming generations will see that in saving the liberties of the United States he also saved the liberties of the world. As he said at Gettysburg, the war was 'to determine whether *any nation* (not the United States only, but any nation) conceived in liberty and dedicated to the equality of man could long endure.'

He had not much more than taken the oath when beseechments poured in upon him, urging immediate action upon the Slave question. The abolition agitators, lay and clergy alike, besieged him importuning and entreating action upon the great question. Several of the Generals, early in the war, presumed to proclaim the states within their commands free.



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He met all these and many other annoyances with a stern, steady, patient purpose; and in such a way as to avoid retracements, rendering every move progressive and conclusive.

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NOTE—The foregoing has been written to show the attitude of the President as to the greatest of all questions determined by the Civil War. The greatest because it was the cause of the War. Had there been no Slavery, there would have been no War. You can see, then, it was an important question, and was so regarded and so treated by Abraham Lincoln. He disentangled it from all other questions; and considerably, in the spirit of fairness and justice, determined it, in such a way that all concerned could only accept the result. This note is appended to say that the emancipation of the American Slave was most judiciously accomplished in a most statesmanlike way and was the greatest event of the 19th century.

## AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMY AND NAVY—1861

During the close of President Buchanan's administration the munitions and war supplies of the government were side-stepped to southern points considered most convenient for military purposes.

The first aggressive act of war was firing upon the *Star of the West*, a vessel undertaking to provision the garrison of Fort Sumter.

This resulted in a surrender of that fortress and a proclamation of President Lincoln asking for 75,000 men.

Thus did the Confederacy fire the first gun of the war.

President Lincoln's call to arms was magically met. Seventy-five thousand men sprang up like so many northern lights. They gathered from hill, plain, and valley. Every loyal state rushed to arms. Twenty million people with great enthusiasm placed their fortunes and lives at the disposal of the government. The North shouted, "We are coming, Father Abraham." In five days Governor Denison of Ohio reported 71,000 men. Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania began moving troops to Washington. Prayers invoked Divine protection for the Union. Banks tendered money. Independent organizations

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offered service. Crowds gathered, held meetings, sang National airs, raised the flag on the village green, and inasmuch as was possible the North placed itself and its all at the command of the government. The war meetings of 1861 were gatherings of fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers. The whole subject was discussed with a coolness and deliberation wonderful to remember. Then the decision and the enlistment. As though but yesterday do you see the mother giving up her son, the sister her brother, the wife her husband, and the child the father. Armies began to rendezvous along the Potomac, the Ohio, the Tennessee and the Mississippi.

If you can see the forces of war gathering from the North to save the Union and the defiant armies of the South marching forth to destroy it, you have somewhat the situation of Abraham Lincoln's administration in the early summer of 1861. The issues of the great contest were joined. The overbearing demands and bullying threats of many years had crystalized into rebellion. The Union forever was the affirmative. Its destruction was the negative. For more than four years these forces composed of the best manhood known to civilization contended against each other. Campaigns were planned, battles were fought, armies were victorious, officers and soldiers were brave; but we must not dwell upon such things.

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Nor can we go to the battle field, the most interesting of all places; nor can we recount the imperishable deeds of the war, a subject new every morning and fresh every evening; nor can we consider in detail the successes and failures of campaigns.

In what may be said of Mr. Lincoln in army matters, we must not forget that there were other strong men, both in and out of the army, who helpfully assisted in saving the country; but as we read the chart and observe the compass of that time, the President was ballast and helm to the ship, the star by which all important bearings were calculated. He appeared on many a Galilee staying the storm and saving the crew. He had oil for all the troubled waters.

The war being on, he surveyed the situation and calculated the embarrassments. There was no treasury, no credit, no army, no navy; and time was necessary to create these indispensables. It took time and money to learn what generals could win victories. He advanced in this great work as he found a following. The brave Lyon fell in the West. McClellan drove the rebels out of West Virginia; but nothing was gained at Big Bethel and defeat was suffered at Bull Run and Ball's Bluff. Thus were matters at the close of 1861.

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This year, however, fully indicated the general policy of his administration. At home it was conciliation toward the border states. Action on the slave question as it could be made to subserve the Union cause and a vigorous prosecution of the war. Abroad it was frankness, integrity, forbearance and faith in the Union founded on a firm trust in the Almighty and the patriotism of the people. From such ingenuousness and straightforwardness, confidence was secured at home and abroad, all joining hands with Abraham Lincoln; and foreign Courts soon came to believe they were dealing with a great, honest soul guided by Divine inspiration and sustained by a proud people capable of the highest heroism and the grandest destiny. Such a policy, though requiring time and expense, was most valuable and soon convinced the world that the President of the American Republic was not an ignorant, coarse, vulgar person, a rail splitter merely, but a statesman and diplomat of rare sense, genius and judgment. He was earnestly determined that the American Republic should not fail. He had rather the work of his life should stand an encouragement to republican than to monarchical government. The Union, to him, was more important than all else. The wars of the world have been for a better peace and a better civilization. Human government has



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greatly improved upon the first model and, in no effort for the ascendancy, has improvement lifted itself higher into the sky of international observation, than in the great struggle that finally determined at Appomattox, that liberty and equality shall rule, distinguishing, controlling features of government among men.

1862

To present Lincoln in the war omitting army affairs would be to give Hamlet without Hamlet. It is in the role of Commander-in-Chief that courage, discretion, and judgment so combine as to challenge the admiration of critics. Let us, then, turn our attention to the armies. The plan of the war seemed naturally to be:

First. Blockade the ports of the Confederate States.

Second. Occupy the border slave states and protect Unionists.

Third. Open the Mississippi River.

Fourth. Destroy the rebel army.

In 1861-2, the western army and navy recovered from the insurgents Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, and portions of Mississippi. The eastern navy and portions of the army during this time regained Roanoke Island, New Berne, Forts Pulaski and Macon,

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also Ship Island between Mobile and the Crescent City. These achievements were regarded as substantial advantages.

Donelson, Henry and Shiloh were notable instances of this character. The Monitor and the destruction of the Merrimac; the Kearsarge and the destruction of the Alabama; the capture of the Florida, the Georgia, and other English-equipped privateers; the co-operation of Commodore Foote in the capture of Vicksburg were other instances of co-ordinate naval action with the army; but of all these brave, soldierly acts none surpassed that performed in the darkness of night when, amidst a shrieking storm of shot and shell belched from the mouths of angry rebel cannon, the brave Farragut, as though moving out for dress parade, passed Forts St. Philip and Jackson, crashed through the sunken hulks that blocked his way, destroyed the rebel fleet which opposed him, steamed triumphantly up the great river, laid his broadsides to haughty New Orleans and saw the flag restored to its old place on the Custom House in that intensely rebel city. Such in brief were the principal realizations of the Union Army at the close of 1862, along the coast and in the West.

The Army of the Potomac occupied a position naturally attracting more attention than any of the Union battalions. Like all armies its success de-

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pended upon its leadership. To know Mr. Lincoln at his best, the treatment he accorded this army and its commanders must be understood. A fair judgment of this treatment entitles you to at least a brief outline of the facts.

At the close of 1862 this army was hardly to be congratulated upon any apparent advantage it had gained over the enemy. Bull Run, Ball's Bluff, the Peninsular Campaign, Banks' Retreat, Pope's Retreat, the surrender of Harper's Ferry and the assault upon Fredericksburg were battles and movements in which the rebels were the gainers. Antietam and Winchester afforded but little relief to the otherwise dark background of military operations in the East. In the autumn of 1861 the Army of the Potomac encamping around Washington, nearly or quite 200,000 men, was expected by the people, the press, the Congress and itself, to move against the enemy. It was pronounced by its commander: "A real army, magnificent in material, admirable in discipline, excellently equipped and armed, with corps commanders all that could be wished." And all this was true. For six full months, while all the western armies had been moving, it had stood still, though its commander was often personally and by many letters urged by the President to move. In March, 1862, after eight months of discipline and preparation, the army moved

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to its commander's chosen base on the Peninsula and began fortifying. From this new base the President repeatedly urged immediate open field action. After thirty days' delay at Yorktown, just nothing but delay, the confederates voluntarily retired toward Richmond and our army advanced, and soon after the incidental, accidental, indeterminative battle of Williamsburg was fought. Forty days after this the army retreated from the vicinity of Hanover Court House to Harrison's Landing on the James River, fighting in this movement on the defensive at Seven Pines, Gaines Mill, Savage's Station, White Oak Swamp and Malvern Hill. After thirty days of inaction at Malvern Hill the President directed the army to join and support the army of Virginia. After twenty-eight days its commander, in obedience to such an order, reported at Alexandria. It required twelve days for the same commander to move the same army from Alexandria to the Peninsula. Twenty days later, September 17th, the battle of Antietam was fought. Instead of being renewed on the 18th a rest was taken and Lee recrossed the Potomac into Virginia. After this battle the President repeatedly urged that the army pursue and give the enemy battle, but such requests made no impression and not until November 2nd did the Army of the Potomac cross over again into Virginia. The autumn



had glided by; forty odd days since the Battle of Antietam had been spent in getting ready. Nineteen times, from first to last, had the President urged the commander of that brave, willing army to allow it to do something and none of all his appeals had been carried out. Most of them had been contemptuously passed by, as unmilitary. His patience finally gave way and on the 5th of November he issued an order ending forever the military career of Gen. George B. McClellan. Mr. Lincoln was loath to do this. He had early, in common with the country, given him his confidence and true to the fidelity of his great nature he was slow to withdraw it; but at last, from the constantly increasing and finally overwhelming necessity of the case, he reluctantly took the step.

Thus the general of a great army was deprived of his command. He came suddenly into prominence and passed gradually from view. Such extremes of elevation and depression are suggestive. In the fifteen months this commander was at the head of a great army, always in readiness, he met the enemy only on the defensive, except in the battles of Ball's Bluff and possibly Williamsburg. Grant never met the enemy on the defensive unless at Shiloh, and there he was the attacking party at four o'clock the second morning of the fight. Sherman always acted on the offensive; so did Sheridan save at Cedar Creek,



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and he made that affair offensive enough before it was over. The readiness of an army is the readiness of its commander. After the battle of Missionary Ridge, Grant directed Granger to move to the relief of Burnside at Knoxville. Twenty-four hours after he was directed to start and Grant supposed he had started, it was ascertained that he was discussing the propriety of such an order, contending that his command was not in condition. Grant recalled the order to Granger and ordered Sherman, who had reached the field the day of the battle by a forced march all the way from Memphis and had fought all through the battle, to proceed without delay to the relief of Knoxville; and before the smoke of that great battle-field had cleared away, his army was off to the aid of Burnside. Sherman's command was in the poorest condition of any in the army of the Cumberland for such a move, but Grant knew that he was *always ready*.

*No such spirit was shown by McClellan toward Pope at the second battle of Bull Run. Those upon whom that hard-pressed, intrepid commander depended did not respond. It was the darkest day of the republic when Pope retired in confusion upon Washington, and Lee advanced in triumph upon Maryland. Had Pope's orders for support been*

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obeyed, that battle might have been determinative of the war.

1863

In 1863 the tide of the war changed. The turbid waters of 1862 began to clear. "Thus far and no farther," was the mighty command of that year's great and glorious victories to the mad breakers of rebellion. On the 4th of July, General Grant turned over to the country one of the greatest triumphs of the war in the surrender of Vicksburg. This came as the result of an unparalleled career of bold conception, fearless manoeuvre, daring exploit and courageous execution. The conception was in cutting loose from his base, meeting and beating the enemy on his own ground. The exploit was in running the hundred-gun batteries of two strong fortifications. The manoeuvre was in rapidly moving a great army hundreds of miles in the enemy's country and finally assuming the offensive with as much indifference as an ordinary general would return from dress parade to camp. The execution was that sleepless vigilance that ever sought the enemy with the celerity of surprise and pounded him until victory suggested another advance. In performance, nothing in history equals Grant's transfer of his army from above to the rear of Vicksburg, in which he marched, to cover

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a direct distance of a few miles, over one hundred miles, fought six important battles, all in the brief space of twenty odd days. On this march he had no extra horse, no servant, no camp chest, no overcoat, no blanket. His fare was the common soldier's, his bed the ground, his roof the sky, and his impedimenta a tooth brush. This victory was the achievement of the war. It added new meaning to the Fourth of July. It brightened the glow of patriotism throughout the country and rekindled the fires, the good old Revolutionary fires of Bunker Hill. It awakened the praise of the republic from ocean to ocean. It came as a thunderbolt of boldness, a lightning flash of brilliancy, entrancing all with a joyous surprise. The President wrote his acknowledgments for this most inestimable service thus rendered the country. He also acknowledged that Grant's plan for capturing Vicksburg was right and that his own was wrong.

On the 3rd of July, at Gettysburg, ended three days of heavy, hard, severe fighting. This sanguinary struggle covered the Army of the Potomac with undying honor. Gettysburg in the East and Vicksburg in the West became the morning stars of peace. The glory of Gettysburg belongs to the magnificent army that won the victory. The glory of Vicksburg is divided between the resourceful commander who conceived and the brave army that executed the brilliant

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campaign leading to its capitulation. In the first instance Lee invades the North, inviting our army to meet and win over him in the open field a great victory. In the second instance, far away in the enemy's country, the commander, all to himself, boldly plans, bravely leads, and successfully achieves. He strikes the enemy quickly, deals him rapid blows, beats him on every field and finally by his indomitable will, energy and activity, wrests from his unwilling, fortified grasp, also a great victory. These twin victories were similar in importance but here the resemblance ceases. The one was forced and the other pursued and captured. The one was a finished product, the other was not. When Grant was through with Vicksburg, he was through with Pemberton. When Meade reported the rebels repulsed, on the 3rd of July at Gettysburg, Lee was not finished. No historian has intimated that Grant could have done more at Vicksburg. He captured the stronghold, destroyed the army that held it, and bade the waters of the great river "go unvexed to the sea." He left no more worlds to conquer. Many a pen has criticised Meade for not forcing the enemy to battle or surrender before he recrossed the Potomac. Some have written that Grant, Sherman or Sheridan would have done it; and either of them would undoubtedly have undertaken it. Lee was short of ammunition, the Potomac



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was high and next to impassable immediately following the battle, and he did not return to Virginia until ten days afterwards. The question naturally arises, why the army, so successful on the defensive, did not during this seemingly opportune time assume the offensive. The conduct of the enemy invited it. The President suggested and urged it, never feeling satisfied that it was not done. I understand full well that Lee was not Pemberton; but the ceaseless persistency and untiring energy of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant would never have permitted an invading army, over which he had been victorious, to lie ten days within easy striking distance without an attack.

In November of this year the battles of Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain gave us possession of Chattanooga Valley, and Sherman and Burnside at Knoxville cleared eastern Tennessee of the rebels forever.

1864-5

Eighteen hundred sixty-four-five were the years of rapid marches, bloody battles and great victories. Grant assumed command of all the armies. He placed himself at the head of the eastern and Sherman at the head of the western. He hammered Lee into surrender and submission. Sherman marched through Georgia to the sea, rolling the rebellion up as a scroll.



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Rivalries and jealousies disappeared. The only quarrel left was with the enemy, and in obedience to the great national desire all cheerfully and cordially co-operated, pressing forward to the high calling of final success. As Grant went out to direct the Army of the Potomac, the President said to him, "I am pleased that you are vigilant and self-reliant, and I will not obtrude any restraints or constraints upon you. And now, with a brave army and a just cause, may God sustain you." In every army movement from this time until the war closed there was energy of attack, rapidity of pursuit, and a confidence in cause and commander that amounted to faith. Sheridan swept the valley as by fire until it was wholly untenable for a rebel army. The last of the many battles fought in the Shenandoah Valley was at Cedar Creek, where this brilliant general, with the impetuosity of a whirlwind, converted the morning repulse into an evening victory. Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan became the stars of the army. Before the ponderous blows of these three great army leaders the rebellion yielded, the rebel armies surrendered, the fighting was finished and the war was over.

I have not undertaken to touch upon all the features of President Lincoln as Commander-in-Chief, only enough to show those that most interested the country and troubled him the most; hoping in this

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respect to indicate fairly the true character of him as Commander-in-Chief.

If I mistake not, his greatest administrative efforts were:

First. To avert the war.

Second. When thrust upon him, vigorously to prosecute it, solely for the maintenance of the Union.

Third. To render the abolition of slavery a military incident.

Fourth. His greatest trial was with the first commander of the Army of the Potomac.

I shall leave the wisdom, right and wrong of these subjects with the cold logic of history, and shall leave the treatment Mr. Lincoln gave them with the reader's candid judgment. The sayings and doings of life become the sand in which history moulds character. Whatever survives the grave depends upon the sand piles left behind. To relate the acts of a man naturally raises or lowers him in public esteem. The responsibility, then, for a reputation is with the man himself.

In this connection it is pertinent to have in mind that all the army calculations and movements of the Civil War were against the leading and perhaps most skillful officers of the United States Army before the rebellion. A dozen or more such officers, under the leadership of Robert E. Lee, became the leading gen-

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erals of the rebel army, leaving for Abraham Lincoln as Commander-in-Chief only a few of such officers. These, however, and those who found the front from the volunteers, co-adjutated and co-operated with the commander of that great undertaking to save the Union; and at last it was more than interesting to see the three great *Stars* of the Army sweep on and on and on, clearing the Shenandoah Valley, marching through Georgia to the sea, and finally at Appomattox taking the surrender of Lee. All this and more was accomplished in fulfillment of Abraham Lincoln's first inaugural, wherein he said, he "had the most solemn oath registered in Heaven to save the government." He was a Providential gift to mentor the needs of the country in its most trying time.

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NOTE—You must bear in mind that as President, Abraham Lincoln was commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy. It was a position of tremendous responsibility, care, trial and hardship. There was no let-up, no relief until the eagle perched upon the banner of triumph. Think a moment, realize if you can the burden of that responsibility. How patiently it was borne, how skillfully its exactions were met, and how triumphantly it was realized. The world explaineth not and so please draw your own conclusions; but do not forget that it all came to pass because a great mind, patiently, but none the less surely, became a great manager of men.

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ANOTHER NOTE—In explaining Abraham Lincoln's life, as you find it in this book, his letters, speeches, messages, proclamations, official correspondence, and the like are not particularly considered because they come within the ordinary course of such things, in all Presidential duties and doings.

The book emphasizes the more emphatic acts of his Presidential career. It gives his personality, officially and individually, in the determination of matters significantly important to the United States of America.

In this role consider him, estimate him, value him, and establish his National importance.

### HE WAS RE-ELECTED

In 1864, Abraham Lincoln was elected to succeed himself. He was nominated in a convention held in Baltimore. There were, among Republicans, Unionists and War Democrats, no united efforts against him of any political consequence. A few ambitionists, soreheads, and natural kickers threw stones at the frogs, from one viewpoint and another, but were unable to organize any noticeable opposition; and his nomination and election came and went almost as a matter of course. This was just as it should have been. Any other action would have been a mistake—a very great mistake.

The Democrats made a great effort in this election. They met in Chicago in September and an immense convention nominated General George B. McClellan as its candidate, upon a platform declaring the war a failure and demanding a suspension of hostilities, that a treaty might be arranged with the Confederacy. The capture of Vicksburg, the victory at Gettysburg, Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley, Sherman on his way to the sea, and Grant around Richmond were too many answers to the Democratic demand.



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### HIS SECOND INAUGURATION

The 4th day of March, 1865, dawned upon the City of Washington under very different auspices from the same date four years before. At high noon, the rain having subsided, Abraham Lincoln again stood at the eastern portico of the Capitol and received the oath of office. Upon being sworn, he delivered a wonderful inaugural address. Indeed, it was a wonderful address. Its language, its sentiment, and its thought were all that has ever been claimed for it, and it has been pronounced the greatest of state papers. The gathering of this inauguration was different from that of 1861. The excitement and intense interest of that gathering had ripened into conviction, duty and realization. Wounded soldiers with cane, crutch, emaciated face and form were in evidence. The occasion seemed a conclusion of a great strife, a great struggle, a great national convulsion. The message entreated a speedy termination of the contention that had so nearly rent the Union in twain. President Lincoln must have returned to the White House with a realizing sense of duty done; and his appreciative audience must have echoed a hearty approval.

### HE VISITED RICHMOND

Within thirty days from his second inauguration the Confederacy began to dissolve. Grant's unyielding hold upon Richmond, Sherman's great march to the sea, Sheridan's wonderful victory in the Shenandoah Valley had finally accomplished the conclusion of the Southern Confederacy. Surrender became the order of the day. One after another the Confederate armies became dissolving views. Lee at Appomattox handed his sword to Grant and Grant returned it, that it might be forever thereafter a token of peace. President Lincoln, with his son, Thomas, twelve years old, visited Richmond from City Point, the city being occupied by our troops; and later, with Mrs. Lincoln, Vice-President Johnson and several senators, visited the city again. The colored people and the white people paid him great respect. He returned to Washington and a great reception was given him at the White House. Robert T. Lincoln was upon General Grant's staff; but Lee having surrendered, he returned to his home. These visits to Richmond and the surrender of the Rebellion filled his great heart with a joyous gratitude; and, as never before, he felt a thankfulness for a providential realization of the greatest endeavor of his life.



VISITING RICHMOND



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### HIS LAST DAY

President Lincoln had visited Richmond, after its capture, twice. Once with his little boy, Thomas, and once with Mrs. Lincoln, other women, and several Senators from Washington. He had returned to Washington and the news of Lee's surrender came as the finishing touch of expectation. On the morning of the 14th of April, his son, Robert, came home and breakfasted with the family at the White House. He gave a full account of the surrender and the family enjoyed a pleasant hour. There was a Cabinet meeting that day at which the President said he had a presentiment that something awful was about to happen. He and Mrs. Lincoln took a carriage ride in the afternoon, having a pleasant little talk of past, present, and future. He had a number of callers in the evening and between nine and ten o'clock he, with Mrs. Lincoln, went to Ford's Theater.



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### HE WAS ASSASSINATED

He had weathered the storm and was serenely anchored in the haven of peace. Four years of strife and struggle had spent their force and a future calm had dawned. All expectations had been more than realized. Joy and gladness vied with each other for expression. The bells of rejoicing were ringing throughout the land. All hearts were bounding with delight and joy, when, from the dark recesses of death, on that fated 14th of April, stalked forth the assassin doing his hated work. So the nation was plunged into sorrow, sadness, and mourning. His great life of usefulness, when yet greatly needed, was ruthlessly cut short. His awful taking off was a shock, a stunning shock the nation and the world will never forget.

### HIS FUNERAL

Never has the country been more sorrowfully impressed than when Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. After suitable funeral services in the White House and at the Capitol, a funeral train wended its solemn way from Washington to Springfield over the route by which, four years before, he, with his expectant family, went to Washington. At Springfield in grief and mourning his mortal was consigned to his immortal by a sacred ceremony and a large concourse of old neighbors and friends, including several of the Cleary Grove Boys.

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MRS. ABRAHAM LINCOLN

It does not seem right to close without a personal mention of Mary Todd Lincoln. She was a bright, vivacious, fine-looking, interesting young woman. She won the love of a great man. She was a loving, dutiful wife. She was a good mother. The passing of three of her children and the assassination of her husband, in her presence, were sad, solemn, distracting experiences that bore upon her sorrowfully and heavily, rendering her closing years sad indeed. Thus does public life have its *tribulations*.

### HOW DID HE LEAVE THINGS?

Abraham Lincoln had been President four years, one month, and ten days when he was assassinated.

During this time he had been busy, overcoming opposition, and preparing a war-torn country for peace and prosperity.

Reconstruction of the Union was all that remained, to have again a complete United States of America. He had subdued all disturbances and was ready with the balm of restoration. War had been changed to peace.

That brief administration registered a great victory, a great triumph, and left all things the country over *infinitely* better than it found them.

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### AFTERWARDS HOW WERE THINGS DONE?

Restoring the seceded states to the Union was the remaining question of the rebellion when Abraham Lincoln was assassinated.

He had a plan for doing this under which some steps had been taken, which, had he lived, would undoubtedly have been substantially carried out.

Congress and President Johnson did not harmonize. Instead of pulling together they pulled apart, distracting instead of constructing. Reconstruction was finally made to include civil rights for the emancipated slaves. The civil rights question continued open, rebellious and discordant for a period of nearly twelve years. During this time Ku Klux organizations sprang up all over the South. Carpet Baggers moved into the South. The military was employed to protect elections. Carpet Baggers and colored men became representatives and senators from the southern states; and discontent held sway until the military was withdrawn from the South; and since then the colored man has been told, politically and otherwise, where to "get on" and where to "get off."

He has taken his instructions very kindly and has forged ahead very considerably in property and education, and in the fullness of time will know his own as he becomes known.

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The South, for all the contention, strife, and unseemliness of that twelve-year period, can hardly be censured; so let it again be said that had Abraham Lincoln served the term of his second election, the entire question of reconstruction would have been settled far more satisfactorily and beneficially to all concerned.

The last speech of his life, acknowledging the great serenade, when Lee surrendered, he read from manuscript; and when asked why he prepared the speech, which it was not usual for him to do, he replied that what he said and did from that time on would relate to the remaining question of the War, and he wanted to put things just right. So you see he had it all in mind, and it was so much just like him.



CRITICISM

Was Abraham Lincoln criticised? Surely he was. Consider the division, the radical, unreconcilable division of party, political and social affairs, the country over. Keep in mind that National perpetuity hung tremblingly in the balance. Do not forget that agitators and agitators were fomenting every conceivable difference of opinion and action. Remember that discontent dominated everywhere. It was no small task to do under such circumstances. Whatever action was taken did not satisfy; and so unavoidably, the leader, the actor, the doer of things was criticised; and the critic, just simply one who finds fault with what he cannot comprehend, found opportunity far beyond capacity.

Abraham Lincoln had to do things. Duty commanded him to be doing something all the time, and he was criticised for nearly all he did from the *setting* to the *rising* of the *Civil War Sun* of peace.

The happy way in which, and the wisdom with which, he stayed the storms and saved the crews, and did the many things of that tempestuous time, were triumphs of a great life. All great men are criticised.

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LINCOLN AND THE WAR

Abraham Lincoln's election precipitated the Civil War.

Abraham Lincoln's administration subdued the Civil War.

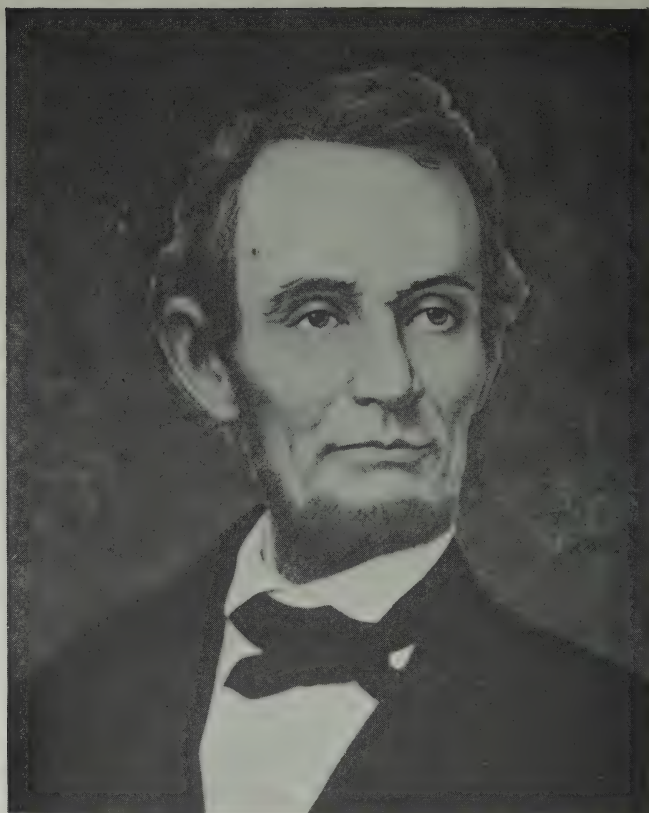
His patriotic action was the desideratum of that crisis.

Nobly did he acquit himself of the responsibilities precipitated by his preferment.

He discharged his great duty wonderfully, most acceptably.

Then let the world continue to give thanks and applause, for such a fortunate deliverance and such a happy achievement.





ABRAHAM LINCOLN

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### TRIBUTE TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN

The guiding spirit of the Civil War was honest Abe Lincoln of the West. In that trying contest the greatest of all was he. Around the ever-radiating center of his wise decisions and great acts gathered brave generals, heroic armies, and noble men, constituting a brilliant historical constellation. I shall not undertake to account for this great man. His birth and education afford no explanation. The greatness of some men is found in their ancestry, but this man's good name rests upon a brief and eventful career. Some great men stand upon the mountain of their greatness, with an ancestral valley behind and a depression of posterity ahead; but Lincoln stands alone in the time of his country's greatest peril, the time that tried its noblest souls, on all things done at the right time and in the right way. This is indeed a proud pedestal, always progressively lifting the occupant to higher and more enduring renown.

Abraham Lincoln from humble source, unaided by wealth or influence, educated himself, overcame all early embarrassments, rose to public view, entered the storm of an angry national disturbance, moved serenely from horizon to horizon of a great life, athwart the sky of criticism, prejudice and passion; disappeared in a tragic death; reappears, mirrored in



the love of a great people and enshrined forever with growing honor in the heart of the republic. Account for him if you can. Able in law, eloquent in speech, skilled in diplomacy, wise in statesmanship, just in administration, pure in logic, sweet and tender in expression, admired in life, adored and loved in death. At Gettysburg he rises in dignified splendor above all the ceremonies of that impressive occasion, giving the world a beautiful classic that will live as long as the English language and be recalled as often as men die for liberty. It is a charming little gem of rare literary merit. It hangs an unfading dedicatory star of hallowing consecration, in the liberty-loving sky that bends over that monumental city of the heroic dead.

His last inaugural, pronounced just before his untimely death, is most sacredly worthy. No speech of emperor, king or ruler compares with it. It is the finest state paper in history. By coming generations it will be ranked among the grandest utterances of man. Its sublime pathos touches the loftiest tenderness of the heart. Hear the closing words:

“Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondsman’s two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn by

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the lash shall be paid by another drawn by the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said, that the judgments of the Lord are righteous altogether. With malice towards none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

In his first inaugural he argues with great force and convincing clearness the impossibilities of secession, admonishes without threat, patiently entreats the wayward states to look before they leap, and finally closes that great appeal with the following solemn utterance:

"The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battle-field and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

In his second annual message he asks Congress to excuse any undue earnestness on his part and then says:

"The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is

piled high with difficulties and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new so we must think anew and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves and then we shall save the country. The fiery trial through which we pass will light us down, in honor or dishonor, to the latest generation. We, even here, hold the power and bear the responsibility."

What an earnestness in all these stirring words; but you must remember it was a voice from the distress, danger, and darkness in which the country was at that time. Suffice it to say that his speeches, letters, orders, addresses, messages, and conversation were all in language, sentiment, thought and expression of the highest order of taste, propriety, statesmanship and ability.

Account, then, for this vast man if you can. Cradled in the wilderness of the West, his cradle rocked by the wild hand of nature, schooled in the practical experiences of life in a new country, suddenly emerging from obscurity into the world's full observation, doing things better than the past had done them, doing things to the entire satisfaction of the present and doing things so as to command the growing admiration of the future. Such was the tall, six-feet-four, great-faced, loving-eyed man who walked upon the national arena in 1860 from the savannas of the Sangamon, with the clearest brain, the largest

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heart, and most magnanimous soul that ever occupied man. If at times he was sad, it might well have been in the solitude of his greatness. He was above the men of his time as the mountain is above the plain. When the great war he led to a successful conclusion shall have shriveled to a speck in the memory of the world, this man will stand in luminous transfiguration for the cause he so ably represented. His contemporaries may drop through the sieve of the ages, but the more you shake the life of Abraham Lincoln in that great screen the less danger there is that it will ever pass through. He will continue foremost among the great Americans while the Union he so anxiously saved endures.

Washington and Lincoln have been compared and contrasted, but forever will they stand side by side as the founder and preserver of the first government on earth "of the people, by the people, for the people."

History has its great characters, which, like torches, illuminate the past; but the character torch, that burns for the future as well as the past, is the one that burns best, and the one that burns the best burns longest.

Washington and Lincoln stand conspicuously upon the hill top of the best government on earth,



inviting thitherward the struggling masses of human government in all parts of the world.

If possible, Lincoln's work was greater, more important than Washington's; had he failed, may I not almost say republican liberty would have also failed.

Here can be seen the importance of the service rendered in the Civil War. The noble men who gave that service saved the Union, not only for themselves, their children, the present and coming generations of America, but for the world. They saved the Union as an abiding example of living inspiration to the cowering masses of monarchy and despotism. Their courage and valor demonstrated the cohering, self-preserving power of free government. Had the Union cause failed, confidence in the stability of liberalized government would have been seriously shaken for many a generation. It was, then, of the utmost importance, nationally and universally, that the Union be saved from the maelstrom of secession. No one comprehended all the consequences of failure in the great struggle more clearly than the man of our thought. He rose superbly to the comprehension and performance of all the tasks of that great time. Beset with conflicting and counter currents, he steered straight for the harbor of victory, always keeping the main chance plainly in sight. Like a bird of passage, through wind and storm, cloud and night, on and on



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he held his proud course, over lake, river, plain and swamp, as guided by an unseen hand; and at last with an unerring instinct he entered the summer of peace. Long live the name and memory of that plain man, the genius of honesty, who came from the West at his country's call, a living purpose to do the right, as God gave him to see it; and having nobly performed that duty was returned, in the glory of death, to the home from which he came—the Republic's greatest President, Patriot, Statesman, and the World's greatest Conqueror.

Not a scholar in the University sense, yet where do we find anything in the literature of the great scholars more exhaustive, more touching, more pathetic, more eloquent, more sublime, or stronger, finer, clearer, purer, sweeter or loftier in logic, sentiment, expression, argument, appeal and thought, than in the literature he gave the world? His words should be in every schoolhouse, ever farm house, and every family of the land, teaching right, liberty, truth, honesty, and an humble reverence for God. We cannot overstudy the life, teachings, and character of Abraham Lincoln. His favorite books were the Bible and Shakespeare. The last Sunday of his life, on the steamer returning from Richmond, he read aloud

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to the company with him the following *prophetic* lines from Macbeth, and then read them again:

“Duncan is in his grave,  
After life’s fitful fever he sleeps well;  
Treason has done his worst; nor steel nor poison,  
Malice domestic, foreign levy, nothing,  
Can touch him further. This Duncan  
Hath borne his faculties so meek, hath been  
So clear in his great office, that his virtues  
Will plead like angels, trumpet-tongued against  
The deep damnation of his taking-off.”

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### CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH

In the foregoing you have the salient features of Abraham Lincoln's life from birth to Presidency. You have his presidential life as Emancipator and Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy; and you have a tribute to his memory. In the following you will have a supplemental conclusion of suggestive thoughts. Thus, in twenty thousand words you have the life of Abraham Lincoln, as it came, as it developed, as it unfolded, as it executed, and as it passed on into emblazoned honor and glory. You have his life as succinctly, as clearly, as comprehensively, and completely in this little book of twenty thousand words as you find it in million-word biographies. You will not get as much lateral and collateral but you get the realities of a life made great by its simplicities.

## A SUPPLEMENT

A supplement to remind that Presidents come and go. Their importance depending not so much upon education and circumstance as upon the nobility of manhood.

Also a statistical word briefly pointing differences between now and then.

Also a criticising word relating to "The Perfect Tribute."

Also a mention of the three *Great Stars*.

## OUR PRESIDENTS

### FROM WASHINGTON TO COOLIDGE

We have had twenty-nine Presidents. Twenty-one of them were college graduates. Washington, Van Buren, Taylor, Fillmore and Cleveland had fair educational advantages and were what might be called academic graduates. These five Presidents, and the twenty-one as well, were born, reared and educated under at least ordinary financial circumstances. Jackson, Johnson and Lincoln were self-educated. Absolute poverty compelled. Jackson, orphaned when a small boy, ever after made his own way; and Johnson, equally as poor, with only a mother, did the same. Jackson was a rude, rough boy, ungainly, tall, coarse-haired, freckled-faced and of the plainest type in all respects. He was never a bully nor a coward. He was among the first settlers around Nashville, Tennessee, emigrating from the Carolinas where he made his childhood and boyhood. At Nashville he was a lawyer, a judge, in the legislature, in Congress, House and Senate; and in all these capacities and others of responsibility he was of the rough and ready type, doing things according to Jackson. He fought duels and invited courage tests, never failing to demonstrate unquestioned bravery. He was in the militia service and was a general in the army where he rendered a



service ever to be commended. He was President eight years, administering in Jacksonian simplicity. He retired to his beautiful Hermitage home near Nashville, in 1837, experienced religion, became feeble, dwelt much upon the future; and as he was crossing the River in 1845 to meet his good wife, Peggy, who had gone before, he is said to have exclaimed that he "wished he had hung Calhoun as high as Hamen for his nullification resolutions."

Andrew Johnson, of pleasant exterior, born in North Carolina, emigrated with his mother to Greenville, eastern Tennessee, where he had a tailor's shop; and, after he was married to a good woman, learned from her to read, write, spell and cipher. He was an adept student and soon became scholarly in the acquirement of language, so much so, that he became most apt in finding the right word for the right place. He was soon, too, a ready, captivating public speaker. He became a great reader of books. His attainments put him in demand and he became Alderman, Mayor, State Representative, State Senator, National Representative ten years, Governor of Tennessee four years, and was Senator at Washington when the Civil War began. He made some of the strongest and best Union speeches in the Senate as secession developed. He was Military Governor of Tennessee and in that office rendered valiant and efficient service. So satisfactory

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was everything he said and did during the war that in 1864 the Republican party put him upon the Republican ticket with Abraham Lincoln. The assassination made him President. As President, antagonisms developed and his administration became stormy. A difference of opinion as to what should be done to restore the seceded states to the Union, and an inordinate obstinacy led to a most regrettable misunderstanding with Congress. Impeachment resolutions, a three months' trial of the same, and an acquittal with one vote to spare was the result. This made unfortunate an administration from which much was expected. President Johnson did not attend President Grant's Inauguration. He retired to Greenville, but not long after was sent by Tennessee to the United States Senate, where soon, from apoplexy, he passed away.

These three self-made, Southern-born Presidents, though somewhat similar, were yet not alike. All were poor in childhood yet they accumulated in life a tolerable competence. They all rose, step by step, to the highest of politics and statesmanship. As Presidents each administered periods of disturbance, strife, and anxiety.

Jackson was obdurately determined in all his undertakings. Johnson was similar. They both used the "big stick," always wielding it open-handed, with

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## A LINCOLN BOOK

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a chip on the shoulder. Jackson did not encounter as many besetments as Johnson. These two came to their own as Carolina emigrants in a Tennesseean frontier life. They both owned slaves. They were both loyal to the Union.

Lincoln was of another make, another temperament, and brought about his official acts in other and different ways. By parley, suggestion, discussion, planning and preparation, he always got thoroughly ready; never precipitating a movement until co-operation was assured, and then never shouting, "Come on," but always whispering, "Go ahead." He planned it all, he joined in it all, he accomplished it all with the "big stick" always away up his sleeve. No one ever thought he used the "big stick," but, think of it as you may, a President, to accomplish the undertakings of his administration, must use some such persuader. It all depends upon how the "stick" is used. President Lincoln's triumphs came of a tireless endeavor, an unyielding persistency that discovered and pursued to realization. *He dictated nothing.* He advised, consulted, conferred, until his conceptions were voluntarily helped on and up to success. Thus *may* a President use the "Big Stick." Why not?

The wonder is and ever will be how an uneducated man, in official performance as well as all the acts of his life, many important, proved to be so well

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educated ; always knowing before action, so accurately, the difference between the *oughts* and the *ought not*s. This charm of life interests and entrances. It places a great life above all others the world over.

English Lords are writing in praise of Abraham Lincoln. This seems odd but time makes strange bed-fellows. Our government in the *making* was wrested from the tyrannizing grasp of England ; and in the *preserving* Abraham Lincoln skillfully avoided her designing machinations.

### A RETROSPECT

It is now sixty years since Abraham Lincoln was mustered from time to eternity. It is one hundred and sixteen years since he was born. These are considerable stretches of time. When he was born, his country numbered a few million. When he passed on, it numbered around thirty million. Now, in 1925, it is near one hundred and twenty million. These are great jumps in population. When he was assassinated, there was no railroad across the continent. Now there are several. This is a wonderful change in travel and transportation. Schools, churches, colleges and all such agencies of educational, moral and religious development have multiplied beyond conception. When he was born, slavery dominated the statesmanship of the country. When he passed away, the country was a free land.

The manumission of the slave was one great act of his life. The slave states, since free, have made wonderful progress industrially, agriculturally, and otherwise. What shall be done with, for, or by the twenty million of our colored population remaineth a question; and may the spirit of justice that dominated Abraham Lincoln determine its solution.

It may, too, not be impertinent, to ask, in the



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not far distant future, when the colored one-fifth of our population becomes one-half or more, what the colored people themselves will do.

Keep this question in mind, my friends, as time rolls on.

### A CRITICISM OF THE SO-CALLED "PERFECT TRIBUTE" TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN

This criticism is of a book, the so-called Perfect Tribute to Abraham Lincoln, written by Mary Raymond Shipman Andrews, copyrighted by Scribner's in 1906, of which more than twenty editions have been issued; and which, undoubtedly, millions have read as being truth indeed.

The book relates to his Gettysburg Address, first describing him on his way to and at Gettysburg, and second describing him the next day at Washington making a dying rebel soldier's will in a hospital.

On the journey of the presidential party to Gettysburg, Mr. Lincoln is described as awkward, ill dressed, slouching, having no grace of look or manner, and as staring gravely and listlessly, dispirited and unhopeful.

At Gettysburg, when called to speak, the book says a gaunt figure slouched across the platform, a whisper brushed over the audience, a quivering silence settled down upon it and every eye watched his strange, disappointing appearance; that then came his voice, a queer, squeaking falsetto; and that the effect upon the audience was irrepressibly ghastly.

The book also says that this extraordinary, gaunt apparition and the high, thin sound from the huge

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body were too much for the sense of humor of the audience; and a suppressed, unmistakable titter ran through the throng, which the President unmistakably heard and understood.

The book also says when the last words of the address were spoken there was no sound from the vast assembly; that the President's long figure stood lapsing slowly into ungraceful lines; that he stared at them with sad eyes and they stared at him; that not a hand was lifted in applause; that the big, awkward man slouched back across the platform and sank into his seat; and yet there was no sound of approval from the audience, only a long sigh answered by a throb of pain at his heart; and as he gazed at the audience that gave him not the slightest recognition, disappointment cut into his soul.

The foregoing paragraphs are a fair abstract of what the Perfect Tribute book says of Abraham Lincoln going to and at Gettysburg.

The next day at Washington the book says the President strode away from the White House and was led to a hospital by a boy he ran across on the street, where he made the will of a rebel captain who was a prisoner, captured at Gettysburg, and that he remained at the hospital until the rebel captain died, holding his hand when he died.

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This account mentions a United States senator by the name of Warrington, who never existed. The book claims that in the hospital the President for the first time saw a print of his Gettysburg Address and was by the dying rebel captain told it was a great address; and that, then and there, where he never was, for the first time Mr. Lincoln realized the value of his Gettysburg Address.

As to the first account of Mr. Lincoln, to speak moderately, it is grossly incorrect. The only truth it contained is that he was at Gettysburg and made an address. The remarks as to his personal appearance are offensively false.

Mr. Lincoln was not a slouch, nor was he awkward, nor was he ill dressed, nor did he ever stare listlessly, it would have been impossible, nor was his voice a squeaking falsetto, nor was his appearance irrepressibly ghastly.

He was not handsome, but he was a plain, impressively good-looking man. When you met him you felt you were in an unusual presence. Wherever and whenever he appeared in public his appearance was to good advantage. He towered above the tall men of any gathering and on all occasions, by whomsoever surrounded, he was an inspiration, personally dignified, intellectually unequaled and morally grand; and so I say he was never, no never, slouchy nor

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irrepressibly ghastly. He had a countenance altogether his own, a facial expression all the more his own, always serious, expressive of deep thought and candid action.

The book's account of the delivery of the address and its reception is false. It was not poorly delivered nor was it received in silence, and one biographer says, tears, sobs, and cheers at the close expressed the emotions of the audience. The audience did not titter or do any such unseemly thing.

All who know anything about it say it was well delivered and well received. None of Mr. Lincoln's biographers furnish anything sustaining the Gettysburg account in the book.

When the tumult of the enthusiastic reception given his address had somewhat subsided, Mr. Lincoln, duly acknowledging the same, turned and congratulated Mr. Everett upon his oration. Mr. Everett, thanking him, said he would gladly exchange his own hundred pages for Mr. Lincoln's twenty lines.

Mr. Lincoln at that time was very popular. Vicksburg had surrendered, Gettysburg had been won, the Union arms were everywhere triumphing, and it was impossible that he should have been received anywhere in public or treated by any audience as indifferently as the book says he was at Gettysburg,



when and where he gave to the world one of the greatest classics ever pronounced; and it was even more impossible that he did not realize the merit of that classic until a dying rebel soldier, who never existed, in a hospital that never existed, disillusioned him.

Always, everywhere, on all occasions, under any and all circumstances, the President of the United States appearing in public is acclaimed; and from the very nature of the case, it was many, many times impossible that Abraham Lincoln could have been at Gettysburg in November, 1863, a few days more than four months after that great battle on that great battle field, and given that great address to a great audience that applauded Everett and did not applaud him. Think a moment, think many moments, before you conclude that Abraham Lincoln was not enthusiastically acclaimed at Gettysburg; and throw to the discard without thought that the audience was spellbound—so spellbound that it did not know good manners.

The Perfect Tribute book was not published and presumably was not written until nearly forty-five years after the events it undertakes to describe; and naturally, if truthful, should be supported by biographical record. This fact may explain the inaccuracies of the book but does not excuse an intention,

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evident from cover to cover, to corrupt and depreciate history by falsehood and fiction.

The first account undertaken in the book is inexcusably incorrect and the second account is pure and simple fiction; therefore, the book is not any kind of a tribute.

A tribute depends upon acts and deeds, must be in praise of one's conduct. To be a perfect tribute it must praise, exalt and honor, rather than ridicule, slur and slander. It must in every respect, too, tell the truth.

Viewed, then, in the most charitable light conceivable, the book called *The Perfect Tribute* is not a tribute of any kind whatever, and should not be used by CLUBS or SCHOOLS or in any way to honor or praise the memory of Abraham Lincoln. Its use for such a purpose is a corruption of history.

I am, in writing this criticism, guided by biographers who authentically recorded the event.

I am also guided by a feeling that it is wrong that the "*Perfect Tribute*" should go any longer unchallenged, for many are receiving it as true; and ere long all will be found in the snare described by the poet, that

"Vice is a monster of so frightful mien,  
As to be hated needs but be seen;

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Yet seen too oft, familiar with her face,  
We first endure, then pity, then embrace."

We must not allow pusillanimity either on or between the lines of the life and character of Abraham Lincoln, for courage was the keynote of his soul. We must not allow that he was ever, anywhere, a sloucher, or a listless starrer, or of ghastly appearance, or a laughing stock, or a disappointment.

He did everything at the best of human ability, rising in all efforts above his associates both mentally and physically.

It is more than surprising, that, seemingly, so many of Mr. Lincoln's admirers should, in the least, countenance or in any way approve such a glaring falsification of history, as the Perfect Tribute.

In October, 1863, I had the honor to meet and shake hands with President Lincoln, and, attired in the gray shawl so much then worn and the tall silk hat, he appeared to me an alert, noble-looking man. I thought him impressively good-looking, an inspiration never to be forgotten, well-appearing, of commanding presence, and suggesting nothing, no nothing, of the fableized account of the Tribute Book.

I am loath to quit this subject. His great life is so filled with perfect tributes that honor his memory

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and should delight the student that it entices and entrances as the lives of few men in all history do.

I would, however, submit one tribute, one of the greatest of all in his great life, without which the United States would be *tattered* and *torn*.

Early in the war England and France recognized the belligerency of the Southern Confederacy; and a little later the Confederacy appointed Mason and Slidell, former United States Senators, as emissaries to the courts of these two nations.

These emissaries soon shipped, on board the *Trent*, a British steamer, for these two countries to enter upon the discharge of their duties.

On November 8, 1861, Captain Wilkes of the *San Jacinto*, an American vessel, with force took these emissaries from the *Trent* on the high seas and they were confined at Fort Warren in Boston Harbor.

England immediately demanded their release. Captain Wilkes had been thanked by Congress and by different cabinet officers, and was congratulated by every man, woman, and child in the country. Instinctively his act was approved by every loyal American.

This was a crisis in the occurrences of the Civil War. Mr. Lincoln, though fully sympathizing with the American view, took the matter into his own hands and ordered the release of the emissaries, say-

ing, "ONE WAR AT A TIME WILL DO." Had he not done this THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE SUCCEEDED.

This was an act showing independent ability, sound judgment, and an aptness at ever *doing the right thing, in the right way, and at the right time.*

This act, one of the most important of Mr. Lincoln's Presidential career, constitutes a Tribute, and may well be placed alongside that little dedicatory address that so beautifully bestuds the overarching sky of the Gettysburg battlefield; and there, unsullied by slur and uncorrupted by fiction, may it remain while the ages onward roll.



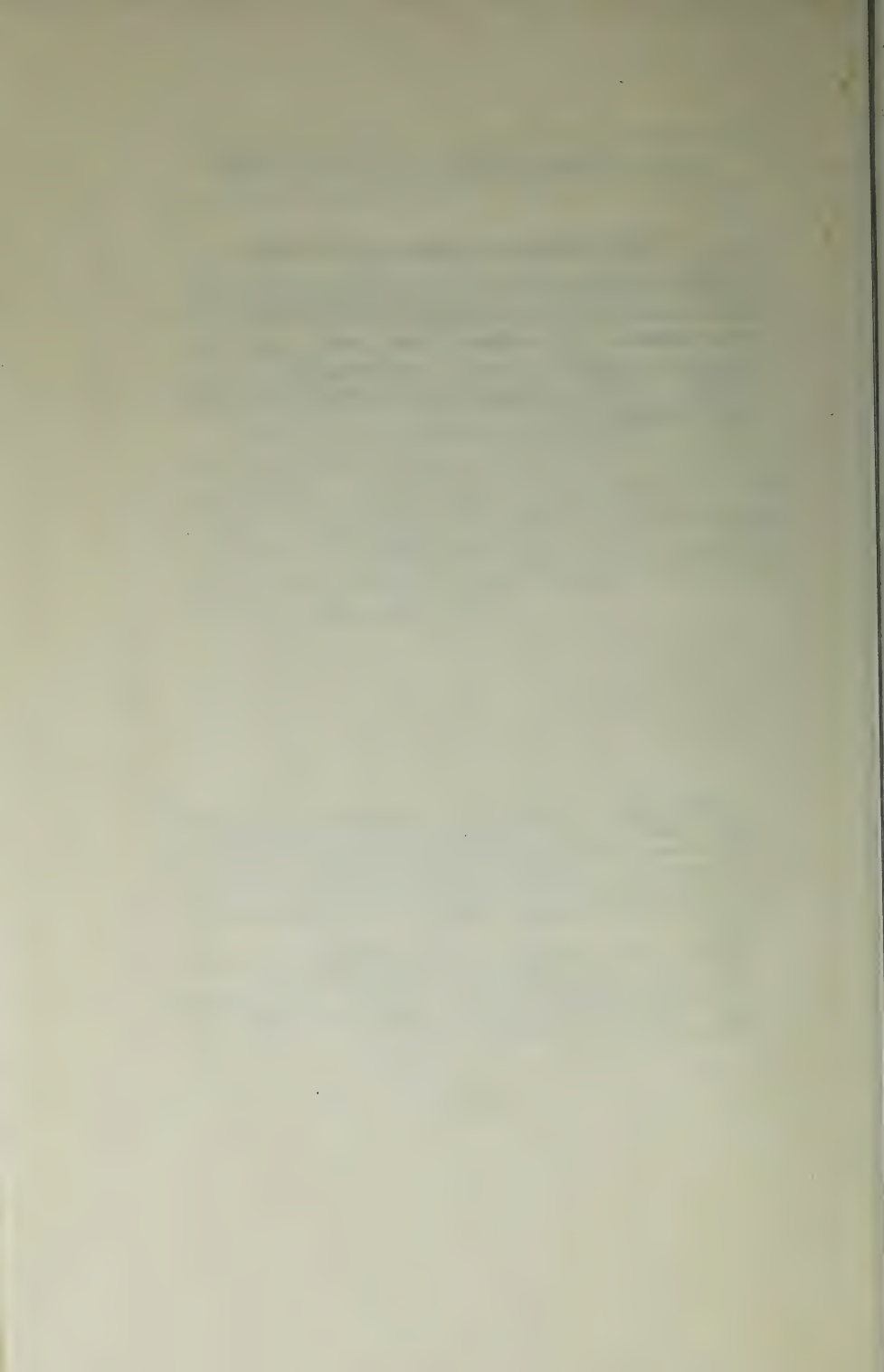
## THE THREE GREAT STARS

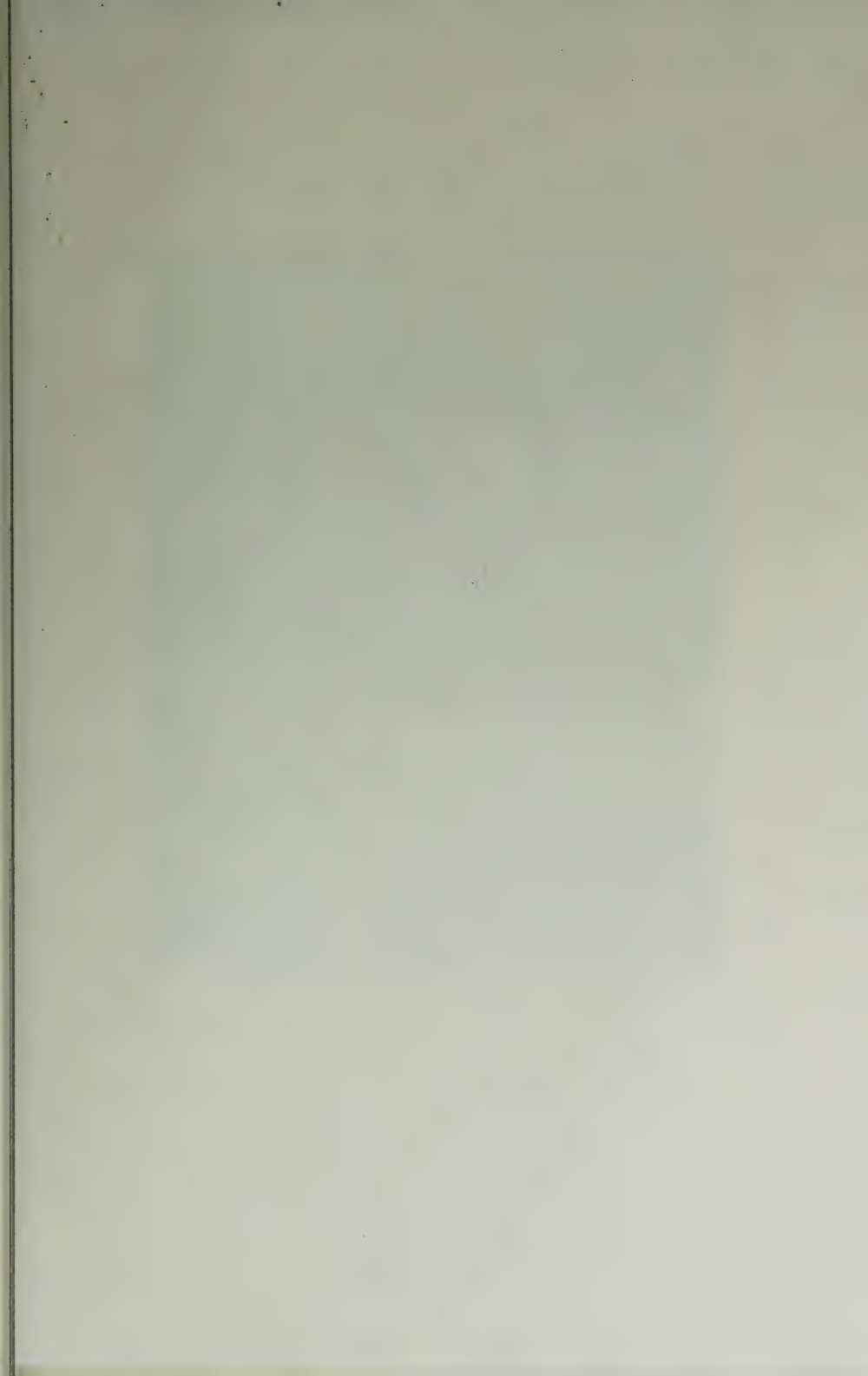
In mentioning these three great stars it is not by any means forgotten that there were many other Civil War generals in the Union Army who served faithfully, patriotically, bravely, and helpfully, but none scoring a brilliancy equal to the luster of the three great luminaries.

NOTE—Bear in mind this is a Lincoln book. The three great Stars are given because they were Lincoln-selected. He followed their careers approvingly, according promotion, as merits and opportunity invited. Because of their own triumphant doings did they become the Stars of the Union Army, of which Abraham Lincoln was the Commander-in-Chief.

Long live the memory of Abraham Lincoln, his brilliant Stars, his brave Generals and his Patriotic Army.

Long live the proud Nation he saved. Long live the Stars and Stripes—Old Glory—the Flag of our Union—may it wave, as of yore, for ever more.







U. S. GRANT

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### GENERAL U. S. GRANT

General U. S. Grant began at Belmont, captured Henry and Donelson, won at Shiloh; at Vicksburg he sent the Mississippi unvexed to the sea; at Chattanooga and Chickamauga he started Sherman on his march through Georgia; in 1864 he moved relentlessly against Lee upon Richmond by way of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, other blood-stained battlefields, and Petersburg; and in 1865 captured Richmond and took the surrender of Lee's army at Appomattox.

During these and other campaign movements of his Civil War Service he coined the following slogans:

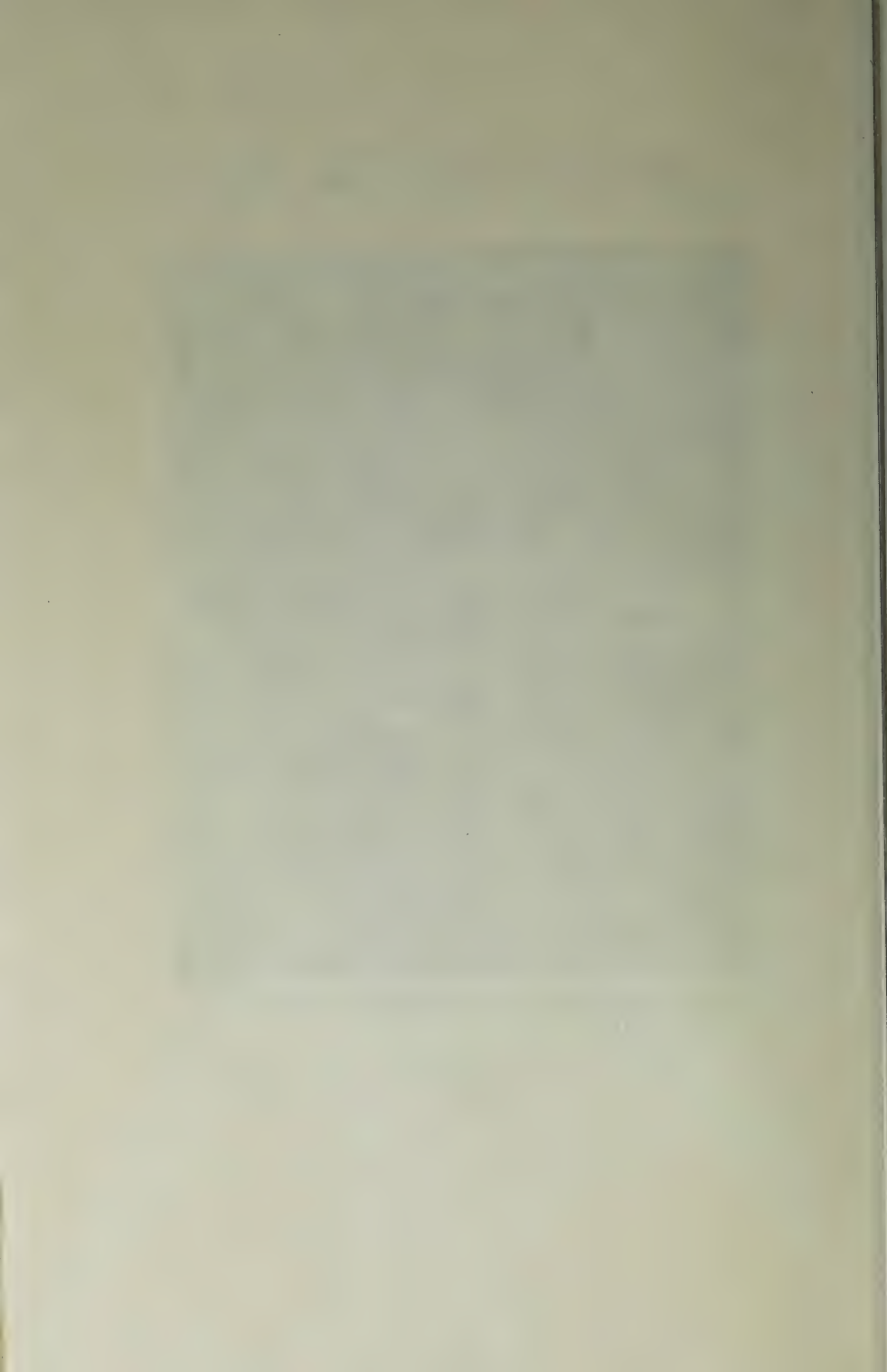
“The other side must be as badly off as we are, move against them at once.”

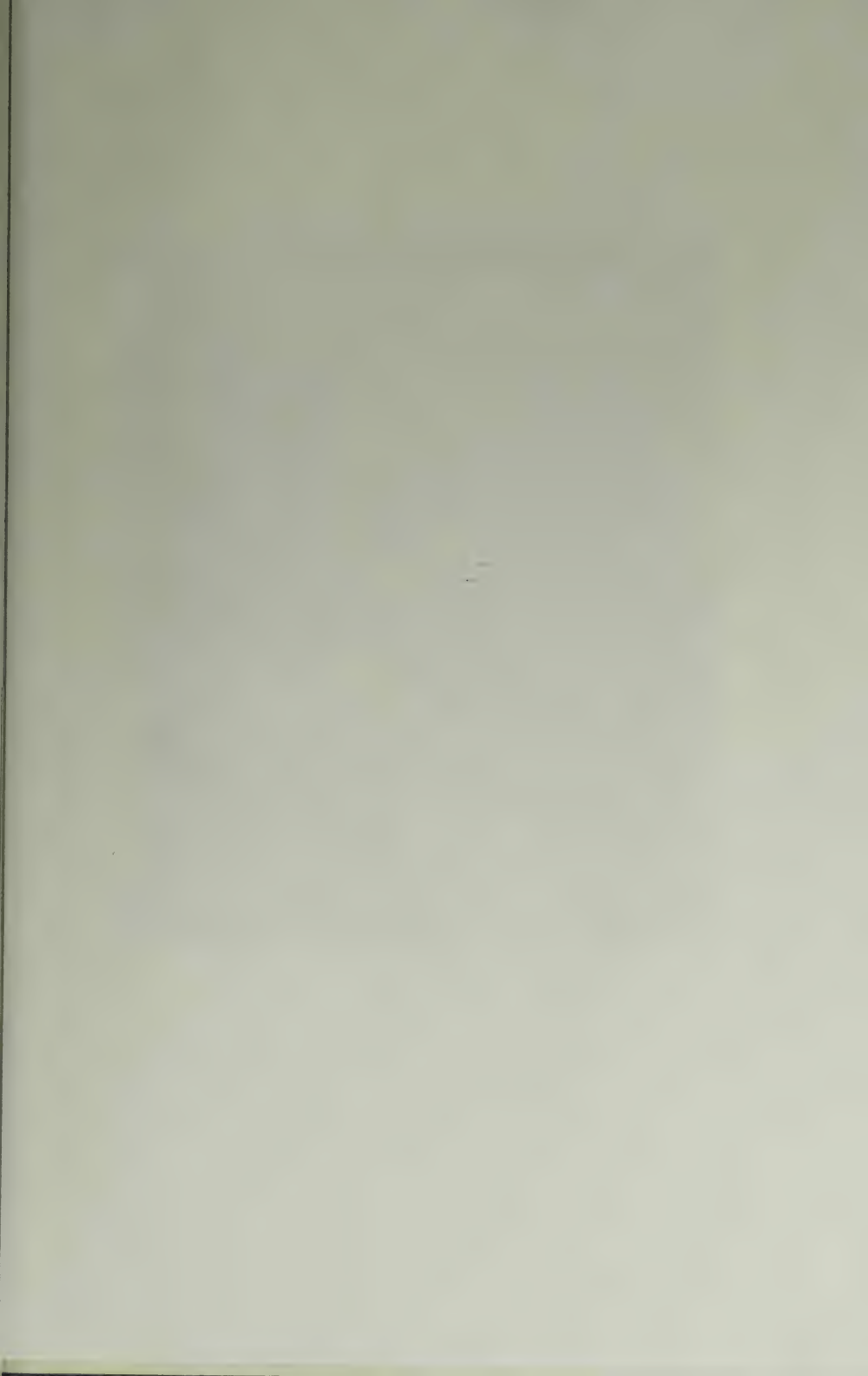
“Unconditional surrender is the only terms. I shall move upon your works at four o'clock tomorrow morning.”

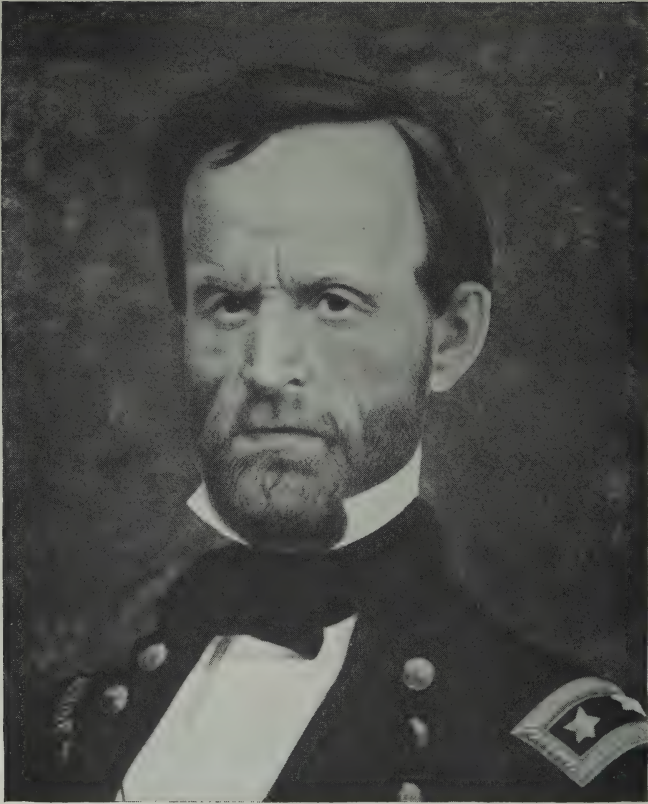
“I am moving by the left flank against Richmond and shall fight it on this line, if it takes all summer.”

He took the surrender of Buckner, Pemberton, and Lee. He never retreated. He never lost a battle. He never disappointed a campaign. He was always the attacking party; and so behold a Great Star of the Civil War.









W. T. SHERMAN

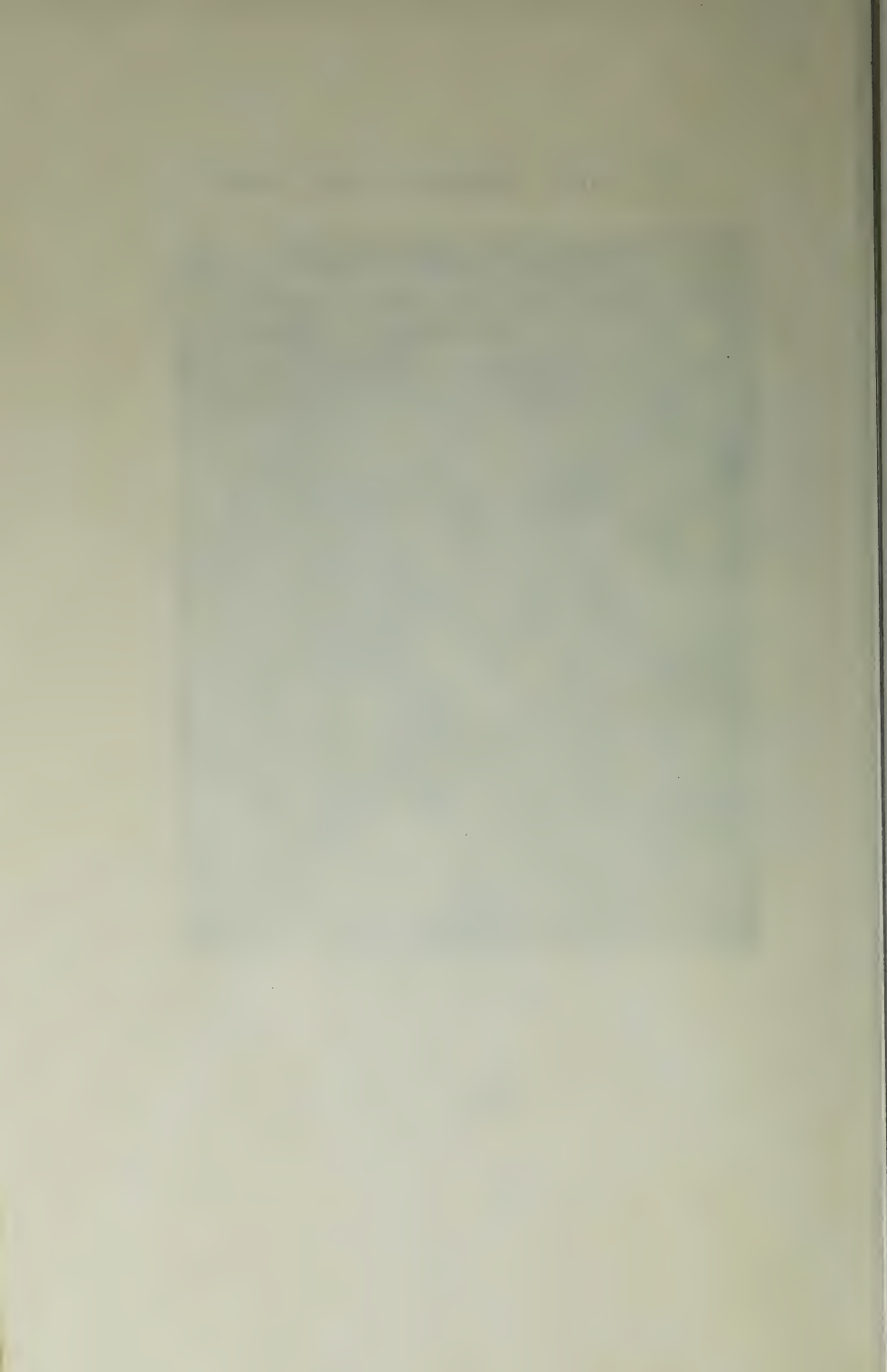
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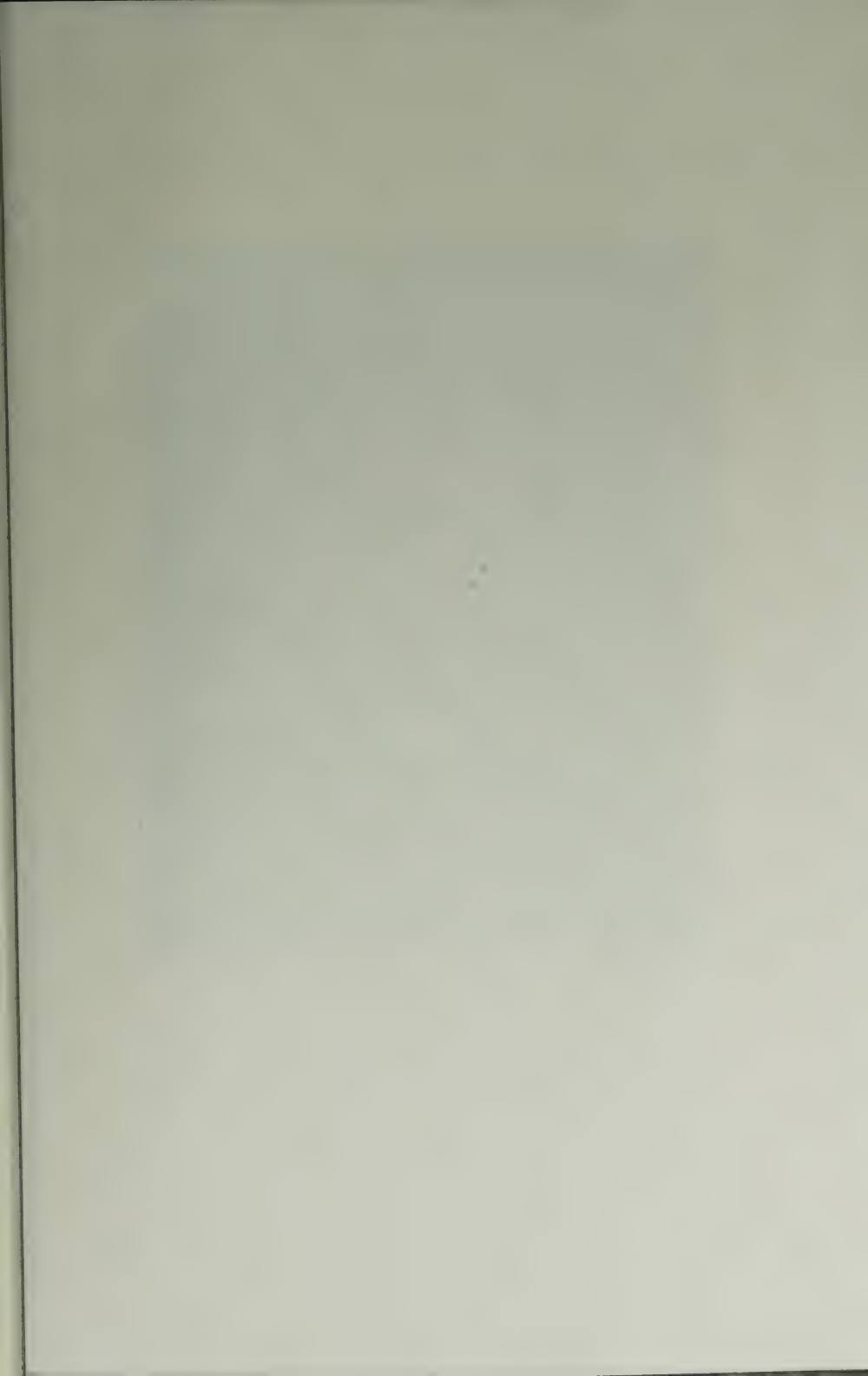
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GENERAL W. T. SHERMAN

General W. T. Sherman, whose "command was always ready," was a fearless soldier, a skillful general, and a victorious leader. He led that triumphal march through Georgia; and so behold another Great Star of the Civil War.









PHIL SHERIDAN

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GENERAL P. H. SHERIDAN

General P. H. Sheridan, the youngest of the three, a dashing commander, at Cedar Creek, Oct. 19, 1864, converted the defeat of that morning into a great victory of that evening, the greatest military exploit of the War, always brilliantly demonstrating in whatever he undertook; and so behold another Great Star of the Civil War.

